THE TIMES

30p

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Top writers in The Times
William Rees-Mogg
Matthew Parris
and Peter Riddell
PAGE 16

Parents to sign formal contracts with school heads

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

ALL parents will have a formal contract with their children's school under plans outlined yesterday by the Prime Minister, who is eager to trump Labour's growing emphasis on civic duties.

John Major promised a raft of education reforms, beginning today with an easing of the limits on schools' power to select pupils. He also wants headteachers to be given the power to make the contracts a condition of admission, according to ministerial sources.

The move would give the contracts binding force and mean that parents who failed to keep their side of the agreement would be putting their children's position in the school at risk. Under the contracts proposed by Labour, parents agree to ensure that their children regularly attend school and do their homework. They will also do all they can to ensure that the children behave.

Thousands of schools already expect parents to sign contracts before their children are admitted. Mr Major, interviewed on BBC TV's *Breakfast with Frost*, said contracts would be introduced nationally to ensure closer collaboration between home and school. Labour made a similar pledge last month and immediately accused the Government of stealing its policies.

Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, last week emphasised the importance of parental involvement, but appeared to rule out legislation. John Patten, Mrs Shephard's predecessor, promised an extension of home-school contracts in 1993, but doubts about the practicalities of a national system ensured that the scheme was stillborn. Now concern about violence in and around schools has added to the pressure for action.

Although schools would have no legal powers to enforce contracts, new guidelines would give teachers greater authority to demand parental support before they are forced to exclude troublemakers. Parents would also have the right to a clear statement of a school's aims.

Head teachers have been calling for almost a decade for greater support for contracts. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The Department has been far too slow to adopt contracts as a fundamental way to improve liaison between home and school. To be successful nationally, they need a lot of Government support."

Parents' representatives and other union leaders were less enthusiastic. Margaret Morrissey, the spokeswoman of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said Mr Major was "using a sledgehammer to crack a nut". Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters, Union of Women Teachers, said the scheme would lead to more red tape.

Mrs Shephard is expected to draw back from legislating for church schools to become grant-maintained without balloting parents when her latest Education Bill is published this week. The proposed privatisation of student loans has already been postponed for a year.

Today, she will publish new, simplified guidance on school admissions. Schools will be permitted to interview pupils and parents, as well as reserving 15 per cent of their places for those displaying aptitude for music, languages, technology or the arts.

Leading article, page 17

Unite or we fall, Major tells MPs

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR publicly accepted the possibility of a general election defeat for the first time yesterday when he told Conservatives that they would lose unless they ended their internal battles and pulled together.

Delivering his grimmest warning yet of the dangers of the disputes that have resurfaced since the defection of Emma Nicholson, the Prime Minister said it would be folly to hand power to a Labour Party that had opposed everything the Tories had done for 16 years.

The Conservative Party was a broad church capable of accommodating both Left and Right, and it would continue to fight on a centre-right, not a far-right agenda. No party he led would be "captured" by extremists on either wing, he said.

But while Mr Major urged all his party to join him in a "battle royal" against Labour, insisting that the election was there to be won, Tony Blair declared that Conservatives were "finished as a serious political governing force".

He said that Mr Major's interview on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost* programme was not that of a leader of a country, but of a leader trying to hold together two incompatible wings of his party. Speaking in the Far East, Mr Blair said: "He desperately pleaded for unity. But they cannot unite around policies, so they are forced to try to unite around attacking Labour."

Mr Blair's long-distance campaigning will intensify today when he tells an audience in Singapore that Labour is Gaining the one-nation party in Britain with the policies for bringing the country together with shared power, wealth and opportunity.

Although the election could be 16 months away, yesterday's exchanges confirmed that senior politicians are thinking of little else.

Mr Major's assessment was stark. He told Sir David Frost: "This election is here to be won. But it is also there to be lost. If the Conservative Party does not realise the opportunities that lie ahead and throws it away by disputes within itself, then it will lose the election.

"The British electorate does not like parties that squabble with themselves. They don't like it and there is no need for it because this party is hovering in the centre-right, it has always been in the centre-right and it is staying in the centre-right.

"To throw it away and permit the election of a party which has opposed everything we have done over the past 16 years or so...and to throw away all the economic advantages in front of us must be folly.

"I would say to my colleagues, there is a big picture, there is a national interest here. There is a great deal we still have to do. What they should do is join us in exposing the divisions in the Labour Party. Come and join me in that battle. It is going to be a battle royal over the next year. It is one we can and will win, but we need all our party to help us to do so."

Mr Major, who dismissed Labour as "soulless" and "an empty box", gave the clearest hints of the strategy that he will use against Mr Blair's party in the run-up to the election. He said that it would be a terrible gamble to replace a government that had weathered the storm of the recession with an untried Labour team. "To throw away the pilots that have done that, and to replace them with pilots who have no experience even of taking a rubber dinghy on the Serpentine would be a rather reckless choice."

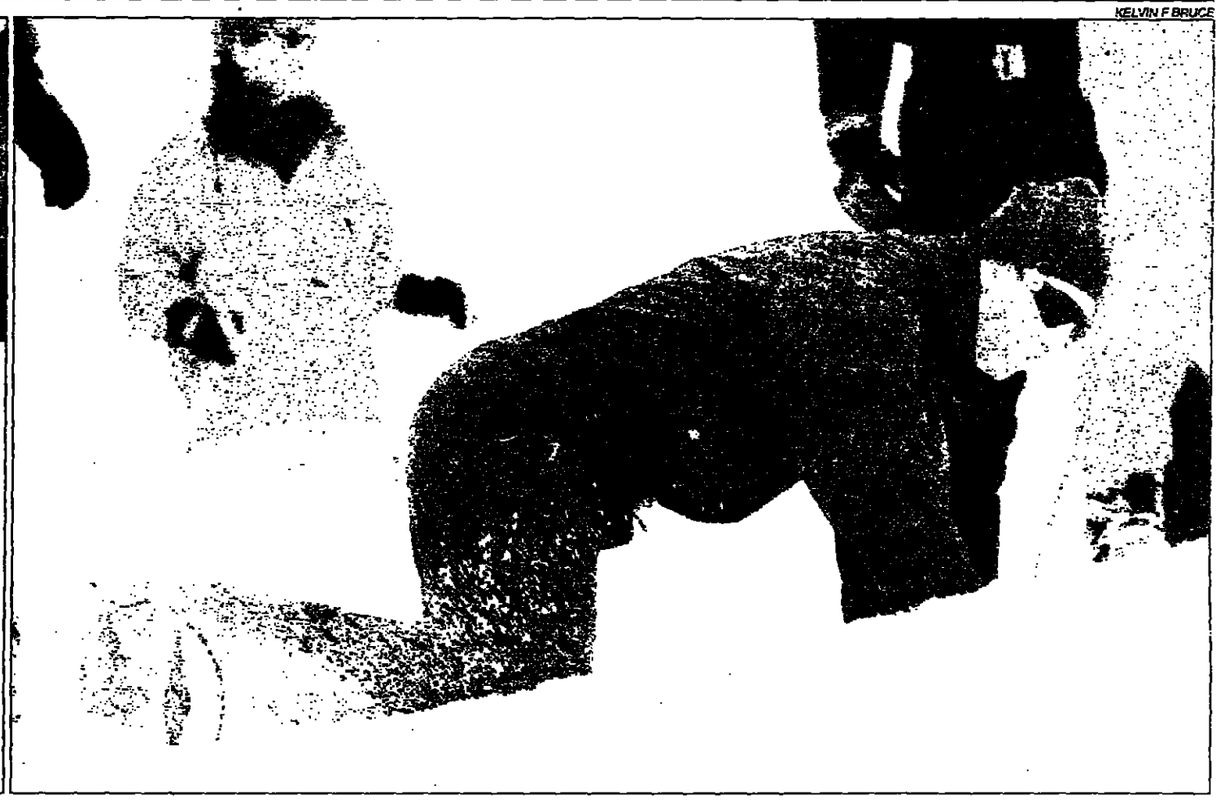
He doubted whether the economic improvement would be sustained under Labour; inflation, interest rates and

Continued on page 2, col 3

William Rees-Mogg, page 16



KELVIN F BRUCE



Prince of Wales falls for snowboarding

THE Prince of Wales trying snowboarding, the youthful alternative to skiing favoured by the generation brought up with skateboards, in the Swiss resort of Klosters yesterday.

At 47 the Prince is a little old to learn a sport that involves fixing the feet to a board and then taking repeated heavy falls.

He told photographers who asked at the beginning of the holiday whether he would try snowboarding that he was "far too old for that." However, Prince Harry, like any youngster taken to the Alps these days, wanted to try it and persuaded his father to have a go.

The 11-year-old prince even wore some of the snowboarder's traditional garb that marks them as the alternative snow culture — a ski hat in the shape of a dinosaur. The benefit of the age difference was apparent after just 30 minutes, when Prince Harry was able to snowboard 400 yards and take the drag-lift back to the top of the run.

Prince Charles, who wore a one-piece ski suit that no self respecting snowboarder would be seen dead in, spent much time on his knees in the snow but managed to glide 100ft without falling.

A spokesman said: "It was Harry's idea to try snowboarding. He loved it and can't wait to do it again. The Prince of Wales enjoyed the experience but I'm not sure he'll do it again." Until recently the frequently ragged snowboarders were banned at some ski resorts. However the sport has been accepted as an Olympic event and is growing so fast that some predict snowboarders will outnumber skiers within a few years.

The Prince also experimented with short "Big Foot" skis, which are more like snow skates, and which, according to the spokesman, he preferred to snowboarding.

Shadow over Clinton tour

Hillary Clinton is publishing a book this week on how society can better serve children, but the big promotional tour her publishers have planned is likely to prove a debacle after the release of several incriminating documents about the White House travel office. It seems possible she will be subpoenaed to testify before congressional investigators.....Page 9

Housekeeper dies as mansion burns

A housekeeper died after being clubbed as her employer's mansion near Worthing, West Sussex, burnt. The house belonged to the widow of the founder of Touche Ross accountants.....Page 3

Internet Times

The Internet edition of *The Times* is now available on http://www.the-times.co.uk

Tenor dies in fall on stage at the Met

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A TENOR singing at New York's Metropolitan Opera died on stage immediately after delivering the line: "Too bad you can only live so long."

Richard Versalle, 63, was playing the legal clerk Vitek alongside Jessye Norman in Friday's first-night performance of *The Makropulos Case*, Janacek's opera about the secret of eternal life.

In the opening scene, he climbed a ladder to file a legal brief in its drawer, but after delivering his last line, his voice faltered and he plunged 20 ft to the floor.

The shocked audience sat silently as the music stopped and the conductor called out: "Are you all right?" Then the curtain came down and the Met's doctor examined Versalle on stage. He diagnosed a heart attack and the singer was taken to hospital, but he was dead on arrival.

Anthony George, Versalle's manager, said his client had no history of health problems and suggested that his death may have been an accident: "All of a sudden he let go and fell down backwards and hit his head."



Versalle: ladder plunge

Millions win the lottery

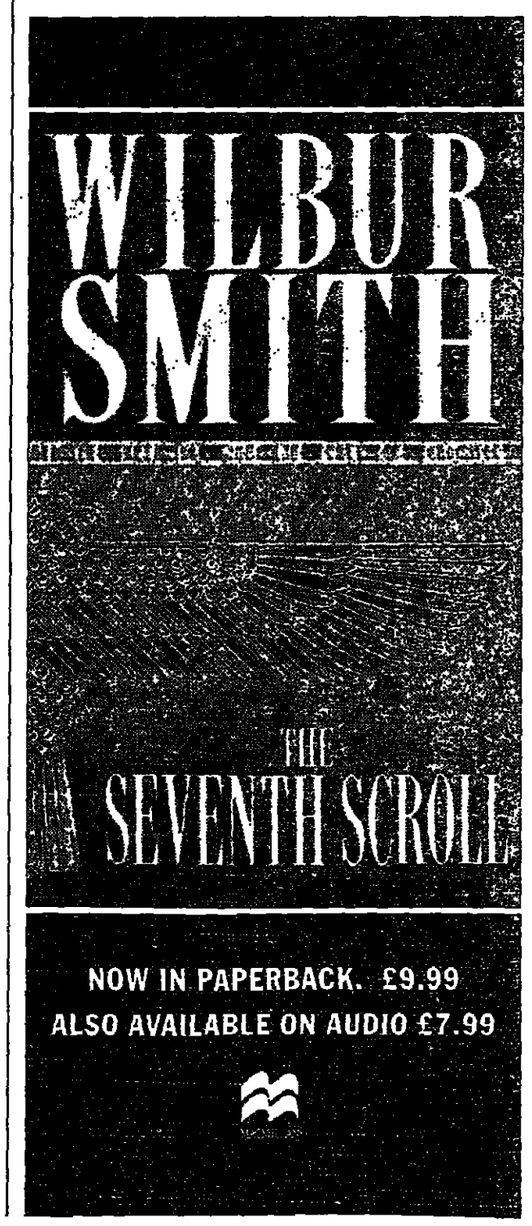
BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO of the three winners to share the record £42 million National Lottery jackpot had failed by last night to claim their share of the prize-money.

Only one caller rang the Camelot claims hotline yesterday. The two other winners can make their claims at any of the 11 regional offices which open at 9am today.

But the winning numbers — 2, 3, 4, 13, 42, and 44; with 24 the bonus number — made millions happy. Besides the three winning tickets, another 53 lottery players picked five numbers plus the bonus, winning £104,747 each. Five numbers were chosen by 1,524 people, who get £2,276 each. Four numbers were picked by 100,140 who get £76.

The £10 prize for predicting three numbers was won by 2,282,389 people.



Washington wakes up to a White House white-out

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE BRITISH may talk about the weather, but it is the Americans who really have it. Washington was brought to a standstill yesterday by its worst snowstorm since the monster that dumped 28in on the capital in January 1922. Even that formidable record looked likely to be smashed as the blinding white downfall stretched into the evening with no sign of letting up.

Forecasters called it a storm of "historic proportions" and "the snowstorm of all our lifetimes". It closed the capital's museums, monuments and federal offices just as they were reopening after a record 21-day shutdown caused by budgetary bickering. It forced President and Mrs Clinton to walk to church, but at least their church was open. Almost all others in the area were closed, along with airports, shopping malls — and even McDonald's.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, cancelled his departure for Paris and the Middle East this morning, and the President scrapped budget talks with Republican congressional leaders. But the most telling measure of the storm's severity was that it prevented Phil Gramm, the Texas senator desperate to be president, from travelling to New Hampshire to campaign. For Mr Gramm to be kept from voters is unprecedented.

On Saturday authorities were blasting out a bewildering array of snow, blizzard, storm and coastal-flood warnings, causing a lemming-like rush to supermarkets and a demand for snow shovels that far outstripped supply.

Fleets of snowploughs and salting lorries lined highways. The snow began about 9pm. By 6am it was a foot deep. It took 20 minutes to dig out my car and the 10-mile drive to work took 30 slithering minutes along a deserted six-lane highway. Snowploughs had clearly fought and lost.

Last night the storm, which began in Georgia, was heading towards Philadelphia and New York. Several states had declared an emergency.

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مكنا من الأصل

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING

In part two of our series, how to keep your sex life young

PLUS: See how your players are performing in our £50,000 Interactive Team Football

WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL FASHION

Winter's best buy and how to wear it

PLUS:

Ageless ageing: are low-fat diets the secret of long life?

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK

Is *Showgirls* so bad? Geoff Brown's review

PLUS:

Ageless ageing: men, women and the menopause

FRIDAY

OPERA

What a BBC series found behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House

PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY

THEATRE OFFER

Take a friend to the theatre for 30p

PLUS:

The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A FREE DAY AT A HEALTH CLUB

Prime Minister puts on a brave face as trouble looms on all fronts

Major fails to halt blitz on Portillo

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO was under attack from former ministers yesterday as John Major sought to defend him. David Mellor, the former Cabinet minister, said that the Defence Secretary had risked prompting more defections from the Conservative Party by his recent hardline comments against pro-European Tories.

Mr Portillo was heavily criticised after saying that Emma Nicholson, the Tory defector to the Liberal Democrats, had a history of disloyalty and telling MPs supporting a federal Europe that they should leave the party. Mr Mellor accused Mr Portillo of opening up new Tory divisions through his comments and warned him against making statements on general party matters.

Mr Mellor called on the Prime Minister to stop Mr Portillo making comments if he "can't be relied upon to say the right thing on wider party issues". He added that Mr Portillo should have declined to comment on Miss Nicholson's defection rather than launch a scathing attack on her loyalty. "It didn't need that," Mr Mellor said on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, adding that it "gave the impression that a whole lot of men were piling in to poor old Emma."

Mr Portillo, who has been criticised publicly and privately by senior

FACTIONS

Tories for his recent public comments, was defended by Mr Major, who spoke of his "formidable" strengths. However, the Prime Minister was less supportive when asked about his views on Mr Portillo's fiercely patriotic speech to the Tory party conference last year, which also attracted widespread criticism.

Mr Major said: "Michael is immensely patriotic. But I don't think there is a politician in the land who perhaps in retrospect would not have phrased something differently." Senior Tory aides said that the Prime Minister was offering his support to a Cabinet minister, although some Tories felt that the backing was lukewarm.

Last week Mr Major was forced to intervene in a dispute between Mr Portillo and a former Chief of Defence Staff over reports that Admiralty Arch in London was to be sold. The Prime Minister ordered officials to make clear that the landmark building was not for sale.

Mr Mellor widened his attack to senior MPs on the Right. He said that in the case of "one or two prominent right-wingers within the Conservative Party, it's almost as if they don't want the party to be a party of Government — it's almost as if they want the Conservative Party to be a sect."

Michael Mates, the former North-ern Ireland minister, singled out Mr Portillo for widening the rift between the left and right in the party. He accused both wings of distracting attention from the successes of the Government. "Michael Portillo's violently Euro-phobic utterings are as unhelpful and damaging as Hugh Dykes's lunacy in voting against the Government in the fishing debate . . . to 'teach them a lesson'."

Mr Mates and Mr Mellor said that the party would lose the next election unless it ended its infighting. Mr Mates said that if the factional conflicts did not end "we shall be consigned to opposition for a generation, and deservedly so".

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

Unity call

Continued from page 1

mortgages would go up, he said.

Mr Major was conciliatory towards the two Tory defectors, Miss Nicholson and Alan Howarth, although he regretted the "furtive" way in which they left. They were both nice pople, had decent instincts and he liked them. "I always have, and I believe — because they have those instincts — over time they will regret what they have done and perhaps even more the way in which they have done it."

He also tried to head off further defections, amid reports that two more MPs were considering their positions, and to counter claims that the Tories were lurching to the right. His message throughout was that the Tories had room for all shades of opinion.

"It would be weaker if the Conservative Party did not have both these wings of opinion available for debate and discussion. I am determined we keep both these wings," he said. "We are a tolerant, pragmatic, broad church of a party. We cannot and we will not be captured by either wing of that party, but both wings of that party have a proper right to make their views known."

His balancing act continued when he backed Michael Portillo, who has been under attack for his aggressive comments since Miss Nicholson changed parties. He praised his "formidable" strengths, but suggested that his controversial speech to last year's party conference was ill-advised. "Michael is immensely patriotic. But I don't think there is a politician in the land who perhaps in retrospect would not have phrased something differently," he said.

In the interview, Mr Major also revived the possibility of the sale of the Royal Mail, but only as a subject for the Tory election manifesto.

He gave no ground over European policy, saying a referendum on a single currency remained a possibility and that the Government had reached no decision on publishing a White Paper setting out its detailed views.

"I believe in Europe," he said. "I think Europe is immensely in the interest of the British nation, but that emphatically does not mean I agree with every aspect of Europe policy."

MICHAEL POWELL



The Prime Minister with Sir David Frost yesterday. Mr Major denied more Tory defections were imminent

Tory MPs deny plans to jump ship

BY ALICE THOMSON

REBELS

TWO senior Tory MPs, Peter Thurnham and Andrew Rowe, made it clear last night that although they are deeply disaffected with their party they will not be jumping ship in the near future. John Major's majority looked as though it was nearing vanishing point this weekend when the two left-of-centre backbenchers said that they had almost reached the end of their tethers with "the lurch to the Right".

Mr Thurnham, who is giving up his Bolton North East seat at the next election, threatened to stand as an independent Conservative against Tim Collins, the official Tory candidate in Westmorland and Lonsdale. The Liberal Democrats are also said to have approached him.

Mr Rowe, 60, MP for Mid-Kent, said he would "owe it to my constituents" to resign the whip if the party lurched further to the Right. He also said Michael Portillo's anti-Brussels speech at the Tory party conference was "disgraceful".

But yesterday he denied he was toying with the idea of becoming an independent and said he would fight the new seat of Faversham and Mid-Kent as the official Tory candidate at the next General Election.

With a Tory majority of only three and two by-elections pending, the Tory heirarchy spent yesterday describing the two men as "valued members of the party" in an attempt to soothe them. In direct contrast to the heavy-handed treatment of Emma Nicholson, the Tory MP for Devon West, who defected ten days ago, ministers and whips said they were aware of the MPs' discontent and were listening to what they had to say.

But they pointed out that there was nothing they could do about one of Mr Thurnham's biggest gripes. Having decided not to contest the marginal seat he has held for 12 years, Mr Thurnham recently went for the Westmorland seat, where he lives, but was not even given an interview. "We have nothing to do with seletion and quite understand that he must feel slighted by the stance of the local party," a Tory official said. According to friends Mr Thurnham was devastated that they did not put him on the shortlist and that combined with his anger at some of his rightwing colleagues' antics had made "deeply unhappy". He also has an adopted handicapped child and found the Tories' tough stance against the disabled Bill last year hard to stomach.



Rowe: intends to fight new seat as a Tory

He abstained in the crucial fishing Bill just before Christmas and told the *Mail on Sunday*: "I have been pressed by a large number of local people to consider standing as an Independent Conservative at the next election. I am thinking about it."

Mr Major bent over backwards in his interview on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme to accomodate all sides, particularly Mr Rowe and Mr Thurnham.

He also denied rumours of other possible defections saying: "They are just salacious stories."

Hints of postal sell-off reopen wounds

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

CONTROVERSIAL plans to sell off the Royal Mail, abandoned 15 months ago, are back on the Tory agenda, the Prime Minister indicated yesterday.

John Major made clear that although the last attempt to privatise the Royal Mail had caused huge divisions and embarrassment to the Tories, the Cabinet was now reconsidering the idea for its election manifesto.

Talking on *Breakfast with Frost*, he said: "I would like to have seen it before, but there was no parliamentary majority for it. We are democrats and if we can't get something through Parliament then we can't do it. But we will look again and see if it is a subject for the next parliament when we come to look at the manifesto."

The proposals have angered many on the left of the party, as well as the unions, who managed to force a humiliating U-turn on the sell-off, due to have been the centrepiece of legislation for the Queen's Speech in 1994.

Most of the original rebels were adamant yesterday that

ROYAL MAIL

they would continue to fight the proposals, which they said would be an electoral disaster. With the Post Office's profits having jumped from £306 million to a record £472 million last year, many Tory backbenchers also contend that the Royal Mail is not suffering from competition.

Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Trade Secretary, rejected the scheme as "pig-headed" and said thousands of rural post offices would be at risk. She said Labour would make the Post Office sell-off "as contentious and unpopular as rail privatisation".

Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East and one of the leaders of the previous Tory revolt, said: "I think it would be both astonishing and unwise to revive this matter. The Post Office runs perfectly well as a successful and profitable public corporation. I do not believe its privatisation would command any strong public support in the next election."

John Redwood, the right-wing leadership challenger, said that his former Cabinet colleagues who were backing the idea had got it wrong, and even the right of the party would not welcome the revised plans. "I can think of many more important issues that should address in the general election manifesto," he said.

Tony Young, joint General Secretary of the Communication Workers' Union, promised to repeat its vigorous campaign against the proposals and said the idea was a "political death-wish manifesto".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patients 'dying in kidney cash crisis'

At least 1,000 people a year are dying of kidney failure because there are insufficient resources to treat them, Professor Stewart Cameron, former president of the Renal Association and a member of the national review of renal services, said yesterday. The shortage of kidney dialysis facilities has reached crisis point in some areas and hospitals cannot meet the demand, he said.

The Manchester Royal Infirmary has reduced some patients from three to two sessions of dialysis a week because of the shortage of money. The unpublished review was commissioned by the Health Department.

Pledge on mentally ill

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, pledged yesterday to work for better care for mentally ill people in the community after Friday's court cases in which two men suffering from psychiatric illness were convicted of killings. Mr Dorrell, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, said: "We need to ensure there are fewer failures."

M&S denies claims

Marks & Spencer yesterday denied allegations that some of its clothing is made by exploited child labour in Morocco. The allegations are the subject of a Granada *World in Action* programme to be broadcast on ITV tonight. David Sieff, a Marks & Spencer director, said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that the claims were "absolutely abhorrent".

Claws, giant of the sea

The biggest lobster caught in Britain for 65 years has been found by divers who were clearing rubbish from the seabed of the former naval base at Portland, Dorset, where lobster pots were barred. The 15lb creature, 3ft long and perhaps 50 years old, is being kept in a public aquarium at Weymouth until clearance work is finished. A 20lb Cornwall lobster caught in 1931 was eaten.

Sinn Fein told to end spate of killings

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

ULSTER

JOHN MAJOR yesterday laid the blame for recent paramilitary murders and punishment beatings at the door of Sinn Fein and said they must stop the violence. The Prime Minister challenged republican leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to put an end to the spate of "centrally directed" murders carried out by gangs believed to be linked to the IRA.

He made clear that he will not accept Sinn Fein's repeated refusal to condemn the brutalities and would not tolerate republicans blaming the Royal Ulster Constabulary for not carrying out its job properly.

He also implied that the killing of five people in Belfast and Co Armagh in recent weeks had cast a question mark over the fragile peace process and the work of the International Commission looking into decommissioning paramilitary weapons.

Mr Major told the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that it was extraordinary how the punishment beatings had stopped during the visit of President Clinton to Britain and Ireland last November. "That argues for some form of central direction. I don't think that was coincidence. After he left, they started again," he said. "Those people who stopped it before — and I think Sinn Fein and the IRA are both sides of the same coin — could stop it again.

"I would say to Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness and the others, I believe you can stop these killings and these beatings and if you wish to be taken seriously as democratic politicians now and in the future then you must stop them now and for good."

Mr Major predicted that the killings would tail off as the time approached for the publication of the findings of the International Commission on January 15. The Prime Minister made clear that the shootings are the clearest evidence needed that the guns have to be got rid off.

The three-man commission, headed by former US Senator George Mitchell, yesterday said that it was considering taking further submissions from the two governments, Sinn Fein and loyalist and unionist parties.

Mr Major was urged last night to give the commission another six weeks by the Ulster Unionists who have insisted that if talks take place without decommissioning they will not attend.

The recent killings have been claimed by a group calling itself Direct Action Against Drugs, but security chiefs are convinced it is a cover name being used by the IRA for killing during its ceasefire.

The IRA is believed to have two tonnes of Semtex, about 1,200 semi-automatic rifles and as many as 20 surface-to-air missiles as well as large consignments of mortars and other rockets hidden on both sides of the Irish border.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, welcomed Mr Major's comments. He said that President Clinton's remark to terrorists in West Belfast that "your day is over" had stung the IRA into the recent spate of killings.

Saudi deportation backed

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DISSIDENT

THE Prime Minister yesterday gave his full backing to Michael Howard's decision to deport Mohammed al-Masari, the Saudi dissident who claimed that his removal from Britain could lead to his assassination, and went further than the Home Secretary in denouncing the campaigner's attempts to bring down his country's Government.

Dr Masari's application for political asylum has been rejected and he has been told that he must leave Britain by January 19 and live in Dominica unless he appeals. Worldwide controversy was sparked when Mr Howard said that the decision had been made to protect trading links with Saudi Arabia.

Mr Major avoided reference to Britain's trade links, instead concentrating on Dr Masari's personal activities. He said: "Mr Masari is an illegal immigrant who has used his hospitality in this country to wage a campaign to try to bring down the Saudi Arabian regime. If people come here as illegal immigrants but are accepted here because we have a long and honourable tradition of helping people seeking asylum and seek to create unsettled relationships with our allies then I don't believe we should tolerantly look to one side. Saudi Arabia is critical to the stability of the Gulf. That is very important, not just to this country. We have already had one Gulf war."

Dr Masari, 49, has waged a relentless campaign against Saudi Arabia since arriving from Yemen last year. He has accused the Saudi royal family of corruption and called for a peaceful transition to Islamic rule.

Dr Masari was warned yesterday that he is likely to lose his Saudi citizenship. Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, said: "If a Saudi opposes his country and his religion, he will be denied citizenship."

Rush to union 'a folly'

BY OUR POLITICAL STAFF

CURRENCY

JOHN MAJOR underlined his opposition to a hurried entry into a single currency by insisting yesterday that it would be "folly" to rush forward if Britain did not benefit from the change.

The Prime Minister said he needed to hear more persuasive arguments in favour of monetary union before he would commit Britain to a single currency and warned fellow European leaders that he was prepared to be isolated on the issue.

As pro-European Tories prepared to open a campaign in favour of a single currency today, Mr Major sent a clear message that he would not be forced into an early decision that would be irreversible.

He took issue with last week's claims by Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, that up to nine European Union countries would be ready to join a single currency in 1999. Dismissing the prospect as "unlikely", Mr Major warned of the dangers of "premature" entry.

The Prime Minister steered a careful course between the pro-European and Eurosceptic wings of his party by saying that he wanted a full discussion of the impact of a single currency. He scotched reports that he had dropped plans, demanded by Eurosceptics, to publish a White Paper setting out Britain's position on Europe. He said that a decision would be taken after settling Britain's negotiating position for the forthcoming intergovernmental conference on Europe.

The Prime Minister was bullish in his comments on European Union plans to extend majority voting to central areas of European policy such as foreign affairs and defence. "I think the concept of British foreign policy being determined by qualified majority voting in the European Union is laughable. There's no question of us accepting that," he said.

Body found in burning mansion

Touche widow's housekeeper is beaten to death

By Dominic Kennedy

THE housekeeper for a wealthy elderly widow has been found clubbed to death as her employer's mock-Regency mansion burnt around her.

Marion Addy, 58, was found dying in a pool of blood at Holmbush House, country residence of Elizabeth Touche, 90, whose late husband, George, was the son of the founder of the Touche Ross accountancy practice.

Mrs Addy, who also served as cook, had worked at the house for six years, living in the grounds with her husband, a part-time driving instructor.

Firemen were called to the house when smoke was seen billowing from the windows on Saturday morning. They found Mrs Addy lying in a downstairs room, critically injured after being battered about the head. The room alongside had apparently been set on fire, as had another on the first floor. Both were part of the servants' quarters.

Mrs Addy was taken to Worthing General Hospital by ambulance but she never regained consciousness. She died soon after arrival. A post-mortem examination showed that Mrs Addy had died of head injuries.

The death is being treated as murder and the fire as arson. Firemen from Storrington, Partridge Green, Steyning and Findon were summoned to help to extinguish the blaze.

Holmbush House was built in 1850 in the village of Ashington near Worthing, West Sussex. Known to villagers as "the house on the hill", it is surrounded by woodland and overlooked by the South Downs.

Mr Touche lived there for many years, staying on after the loss in 1968 of his first wife Ursula, who was accidentally killed on the A24 while driving the family car out of the grounds. He took the death of his first wife badly but was comforted by his second bride, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1969.

She sold her former home in Pulborough to Guy Harwood, the racehorse trainer, on her wedding. The couple were already elderly and had known each other for many years.

"This incident at Holmbush House is very tragic," Sir Anthony Touche, 69, Mrs Touche's nephew, said.

"It is a lovely old house built in the Regency style. My uncle had lived there until he died last February. He was 92 years old and had married Aunt Elizabeth in 1969, a year after Ursula's tragic death. She moved in with him at the house."

Mr Touche, a prominent accountant, had separated from the family owned company in 1970 when it became Touche Ross. With Sir Anthony, he set up an investment trust company called Touche Remnant Holdings. He retired from accountancy at the age of 70.

"Liza is an amazingly tough woman but this terrible tragedy is obviously going to be an ordeal," Martin Baldwin, a friend and former neighbour, said.

"The death of one of her staff in such circumstances is obviously going to be a blow. My wife Jeannie and I were good friends with the Touches for the ten years we lived close by.

"We protested against the local Ashington by-pass being built and we often shared a coffee and a chat. He was a smashing bloke who was very active even at an elderly age. This would have been very upsetting for him."

Mrs Baldwin said: "Mrs Touche was a very intelligent woman and when we lived near by was still very much on the ball."

Brian Norton, chairman of Ashington Parish Council, said: "The Touche family were lovely people and always gave a lot of time and support to village events.

"This is very bad news. Mr Touche used to audit the village hall accounts. He was a marvellous man."

Police arrested a woman at Otterbourne, Hampshire, and drove her to the main incident room in Horsham for questioning.

"A woman arrested after the fire and the death of Mrs Addy is still in custody at Horsham Police Station and is being questioned about the death," Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood, who is leading the investigation, said.

A 62-year-old woman will appear before magistrates at Horsham today charged with murder.



Holmbush House, where Mrs Addy had worked for six years. She lived in the grounds



The extended Finch family before setting off in June on a voyage that was to have ended at the millennium

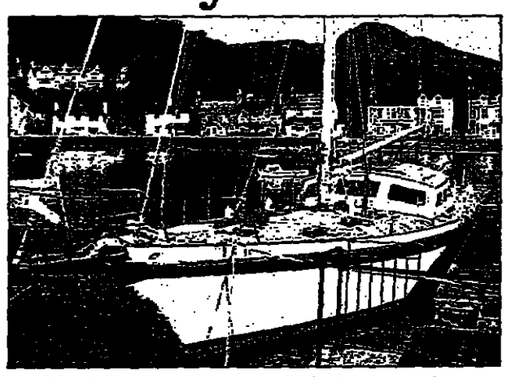
Sail of century ends a bit early

By Bill Frost

A BUILDER who embarked on a highly publicised round-the-world yacht voyage with his extended family in June was back home last night to explain why the adventure foundered 30,000 miles short of target and four years early.

Gordon Finch had announced his plan not to return home until the millennium in the hope that the economy would be "sorted out" by then. He exchanged his business and £250,000 home to finance a circumnavigation which, in the event, ended just before Christmas "at a marina somewhere in southern Spain".

Mr Finch, 45, from Stokesley, North Yorkshire, had seven aboard the £80,000 yacht *Askania* as he set sail for what was to have been a five-year voyage, taking in the Caribbean and South Pacific. He and his wife Jane had wanted a romantic cruise alone but their three sons, two of their girlfriends and a grandchild decided they too should share the adventure.



The *Askania*, which was sold in Spain at a loss

Last night Mr Finch, now back in the family home that failed to find a buyer during his absence on the high seas, spoke of the misfortunes that beset the voyage. "Basically there were lots of problems from the outset. We had to wait for spare parts and repairs in various places and fell behind schedule."

Family considerations seem to have played a large part. Mr Finch said that the circumnavigation was aborted so the "boys could go home while their jobs remained open".

He added: "If it had just been me and my wife, we would have carried on to our first planned stopping-off point in Tunisia. No matter what you have heard to the contrary, we had a whale of a time and remain one big happy family." Perhaps stung by any implied criticism over the failure of the voyage, Mr Finch's son Karl, 23, was less forthcoming yesterday: "It's got nothing to do with anyone else," he said. His younger brother Jonathan, 18, said: "We stopped and sold the boat but we are not saying why. We left her behind in Spain and I came back a few weeks ago with a good suntan."

The mishaps began off the Welsh coast near Milford Haven after the *Askania's* autopilot and steering broke down, Gordon Finch said.

They then hit "absolutely foul" weather crossing the Channel and endured a rough passage across the Bay of Biscay. By then winter conditions began to sweep into southern Europe. After a conference the family decided the yacht should be sold. "We didn't get quite what we paid," Mr Finch said.

"With hindsight, it was probably too big a challenge to take on," Mr Finch said. "At least we had a go."

Lady of the isle packs as stepson moves in

By Robin Young

ISLANDERS on Bute have reconciled themselves to losing their chatelaine, Jennifer Marchioness of Bute, widow of the sixth Marquess. They are convinced her presence on the island, off the coast of southwest Scotland, is inconsistent with the plans of her stepson, the seventh marquess, who prefers to be known as Johnny Dumfries.

Lady Bute refused to discuss the situation yesterday beyond saying: "I am not at daggers drawn with my stepson, and we are not in the middle of some flaming row."

But she has told islanders that she expects to leave shortly, saying: "I feel deep regret about what has happened. I would have loved to stay for ever."

A resident who described herself as a friend of Lady Bute but refused to be named said: "It has been plain for months that she would have to leave eventually.

"We had hoped that she would be allowed to stay on in her apartment for as long as she wished, but it does not seem that any provision has been made for her."

Lady Bute married the sixth marquess 18 months after his divorce from Johnny Dumfries's mother Nicola in 1977 and quickly became a respected figure on the island. She had a vital role in restoring the family's 19th-century Gothic mansion, Mount Stuart House, and in developing its gardens before it was opened to the public last year.

The seventh marquess, who was British Formula Three champion in 1984 and won Le Mans in 1988, lives in Notting Hill Gate, west London. Since his father's death, tenant farmers whose rents had in some cases not been reviewed for 20 years have had them quadrupled. Estate workers have been made redundant.

Though dowagers in the Bute family have traditionally removed to a second home on the Scottish mainland, Lady Bute is expected to return to London in March.

The seventh marquess was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Charities act to save 'living lawnmowers'

By Robin Young

ANIMAL welfare charities say they are having to to rescue distressed, abandoned, injured or starving Shetland ponies from owners who have answered advertisements saying: "Don't buy a lawnmower — buy a pony."

Peter Wakeham, manager of the West Sussex sanctuary of the charity Animal Line, has rescued two Shetland ponies, Hamish and Dougal, bought by families who saw the advertisements in local newspapers in Sussex. A neighbouring welfare worker has rescued a third pony, Elfin, from a garden in Shropshire.

Mr Wakeham said yesterday: "Both Hamish and Dougal were being kept in gardens about 20ft by 20ft. One garden had a lawn only about the size of a kitchen, but the buyer had been told that a pony would be the best thing to keep the grass down. A back garden is no place for a horse, however small. It is outrageous. They need a wide open field to graze, and shelter. Gardens are full of all sorts of things such as rhododendrons which would be poisonous to them."

Mr Wakeham said that Dougal's owners had told him they fed the pony only 1½ lbs of apples a day as supplement to the grass in the garden. "It is a wonder that he is still alive," Mr Wakeham said. "We have now learnt that the advertisement ran in Sussex papers for several weeks, and we have investigators trying to trace who was selling the ponies."

The third pony, Elfin, now being looked after by Pauline Grant at the Sussex Horse Rescue Sanctuary, was rescued from a garden in Shropshire after falling in a ditch and injuring itself while attempting to escape. Mrs Grant said yesterday: "They are herd animals and confined like that they become unhappy, lonely and miserable."

Tikki Adorian, the chairwoman of the British Miniature Horse Society, has intervened to prevent similar advertisements appearing in Suffolk and Norfolk "on welfare grounds".

Vandals kill birds at zoo loved by children

By Bill Frost

SECURITY guards were patrolling an inner-city zoo last night after intruders strangled and stamped on dozens of birds. Finches, budgerigars, canaries, cockatiels and a buzzard were slaughtered in their aviaries at Plashet Park Zoo in East Ham, east London, late on Saturday.

John Bowe, an RSPCA inspector called to the scene, said yesterday that it was the worst case of mass animal cruelty he had seen. "This was obviously a case of mindless violence against animals on a major scale," he said.

Police were called at 11.30pm on Saturday night by a member of the public who reported seeing two intruders in the zoo grounds. Officers arrived to find an air pistol lying on the ground and 36 dead birds, worth £1,000, scattered over the floor of the aviary after apparently being strangled and crushed.

After searching the grounds police called in a helicopter with heat-seeking equipment to locate the intruders. The zoo remained closed to visitors yesterday.

The zoo is also home to a animals including goats, geese, chickens and horses, which children are allowed to stroke. There is also a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, ponies and ducks.

Councillor Lyn Brown, who chairs Newham Council's Leisure Services Committee, said officials and staff were devastated by what had happened. "Plashet Zoo is very highly valued, particularly by children. This news will be especially distressing for them," she said.

Local people had recently campaigned successfully to save the zoo from closure due to council cuts. "While we all want to keep the zoo open, we also must have maximum concern for the safety and welfare of the animals and birds in our care," Mrs Brown said.

Two men aged 17 and 19 were yesterday questioned at Forest Gate police station by detectives and RSPCA officials investigating the incident.

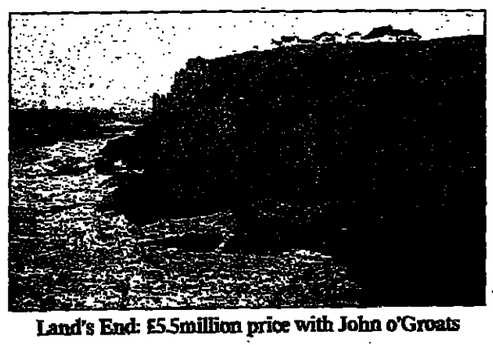
Views on sale as matching pair

By Carol Midgley

JOHN O'GROATS and Land's End, mainland Britain's most remote tourist extremities, go on sale together for the first time today. The most northerly and westerly ends of a thousand sponsored walks have a collective price tag of about £5.5 million.

Gulf Resources Pacific Limited (GRP), the New Zealand-based owner, has decided to put them on the market to concentrate on Pacific business ventures. The chance to acquire Britain's most far-flung landmarks is expected to attract buyers at home and from America, South Africa and the Far East.

Humberts Leisure, the chartered surveyors who are handling the sale, said there may be public pressure to find a British buyer. Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, the chairman, said: "When Land's End was first sold to a private company in 1981, there was some consternation that Arabs had purchased it with millions of barrels of oil and it was going to be towed away and planted somewhere."



Land's End: £5.5million price with John o'Groats

The landmark was then bought by the millionaire Peter de Savary in 1986, who sold it to GRP four years ago. Mr Talbot-Ponsonby said that good management meant there had been no problems.

He added: "Land's End and John o'Groats are together a unique opportunity for a UK or international leisure or property company." Land's End, 100 acres steeped in Cornish folklore and legend, now attracts about half a million visitors a year. Turnover for 1995 was said to be £3.5 million, derived mainly from hotels, restaurants and gift shops.

John o'Groats, about 12 miles from the mainland's most northerly point, Dunnet Head, is 874 miles by road from Land's End and attracts 250,000 visitors.

Its income is mainly from the John o'Groats House Hotel, a restaurant and tourist shop. Planning permission for exansion of the site has been granted and it is eligible for a £700,000 grant from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Company.

Last night Mr de Savary, who formerly owned both sites, said he was considering buying them again.

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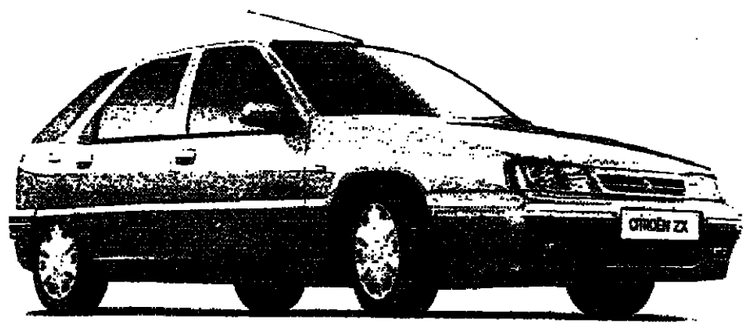
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Costa deal emerges as 'homeless' priest is found to rent out his own house

Charity cash hunt leads to Spanish villas fiasco

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A CHARITY hospital demanding £42,000 back from its former top officers, a priest and a Labour Party agent, is to examine a failed Spanish building project in which they invested.

A training agency run by the Rev Graham Pattison, former Master of Sherburn Hospital, Durham, and Ron Morrissey, the hospital's former chairman, sank £700,000 into Costa del Sol villas that were never completed.

Mr Pattison, who was sacked for misconduct, faces eviction from his Grade II listed rent-free home in the hospital grounds. He refuses to go, claiming that he has nowhere to live. *The Times* has learnt that he and his wife Valerie own a £70,000 home ten minutes' drive away.

Mr Pattison, 56, and Mr Morrissey, 59, were criticised by the Charity Commission last week for weaving a "web of conflicts of interest, patronage and nepotism" at the hospital. Although a report found nothing illegal or dishonest had taken place, it accused them of manipulating the 800-year-old charity for their own ends. They were provided with £19,000 Alfa Romeo 164 Lusso cars and their families benefited from pension schemes.

The Spanish investigation includes £42,000 in hospital grants paid during 1986-88.

The Costa del Sol development Panoramica de Mijas is little more than a derelict plot of hill-top land.

In the 1980s Mr Morrissey and Mr Pattison also ran the youth training agency Interchurch. Later renamed Skill Training Ltd, it attracted charity and government grants to run training schemes for the unemployed of Durham. By the late Eighties a change in government rules allowed such agencies to retain their profits. Skill Training put its money into speculative property development, ostensibly to raise huge sums for future training projects.

Mr Morrissey, a Durham city councillor, set up a separate Spanish-registered company, Skilltrain España, with himself as a 98 per cent shareholder. The British firm sent £300,000 to buy land for villas which it hoped to sell for about £100,000 each.

But the property market collapsed and with it the project, amid squabbles over land rights and payment to contractors. Documents filed at Companies House show Skill Training lost £699,608 in the Panoramica project over the past six years.

Mr Pattison and Mr Morrissey are no longer involved with Skill Training. The hospital is examining the accounts to see if it can get back three grants totalling £42,000 donated to Interchurch but paid into an account controlled by the two men.

Last night Mr Morrissey said: "I am not guilty of any wrongdoing. I deny there was any nepotism. This is a political attack. They are putting the worst possible interpretations on things that were perfectly innocent.

"Explanations have been given to the Charity Commission and were ignored. Two police investigations have cleared us and the commissioners have said there was no dishonesty."

Skill Training's Spanish venture was simply a speculative investment that failed to pay off, he said. "The money was nothing to do with Sherburn Hospital." Mr Pattison also denies wrongdoing. He blames Mr Morrissey and Kathleen Burke, a fellow director, and claims to have learnt of the villas project only weeks after it happened.

Mr Pattison said: "There were errors made in 1989 in relation to the initial £300,000 which went out to Spain as a so-called investment.

"I thought it was a damnably foolish thing to do. My problem is that I have been guilty of laisser faire in trusting that two people who ran Skill Training Ltd, who were respectively chairman and vice-chairman of the governing body here, were making a good job of it."

DEREK IVE



Three empty villas on the Costa del Sol built with cash from the British agency Skill Training. Originally 17 homes were planned

'I don't know what it is they are bleating about'

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Rev Graham Pattison yesterday admitted "with hindsight" to having made errors but challenged critics to find any evidence of wrongdoing in his work for Sherburn Hospital.

In a three-hour interview with *The Times* he dismissed Charity Commission accusations of nepotism and manipulating hospital affairs for his own ends.

"I really don't know what it is people are bleating about," he said. "Hell, I am underpaid for what I have done ...

"I think it is ludicrous. I don't know why I have worked for £12,000 and a house that is not my own ... Anything I am not legitimately entitled to I will be perfectly happy to hand over."

These are the main criticisms and his responses:

1. Hospital charity grants of £42,000 to the training agency run by Mr Pattison and Ron Morrissey, the agent for the City of Durham's Labour MP, were paid into a private account under their exclusive control. Between £20,000 and £42,000 remains unaccounted for, according to the Charity Commission report.

Mr Pattison admits he cannot account for at least £12,000 of the money because invoices were not kept. "I don't feel culpable in the sense of being guilty but I feel less than proud that I cannot remember what the exact items of equipment were that we bought back in 1986."

2. The purchase of two £19,000 3-litre Alfa Romeo cars in 1989. Mr Pattison's was bought from hospital funds and Mr Morrissey's by the Interchurch training agency.

"I personally have no reason to feel any guilt whatsoever about the purchase of that car. I was not a governor so I never voted for the purchase," he said.

The cost did not disturb him. "If that had taken money out of the residents' mouths and accommodation and care it ought to be wholly disapproved of ..." But the cars were bought out of surpluses that the charity was able to make from shareholdings."



Pattison: denial of any wrongdoing

He added: "The Archdeacon of Durham believes that a priest ought not to be seen dead at the wheel of a vehicle that costs £19,000. I think that is the Archdeacon's problem."

3. His wife Valerie's appointment as the hospital's head of care at a salary of between £25,000 and £35,000, and her £100,000 executive pension.

"I just do not know how my wife's appointment is regarded as nepotistic. The master does not vote on appointments ... She was the only candidate of six who happened to be an SRN and was the best qualified. The pension is not exceptional. With hindsight ... I wish she had not been granted it. But at the time I was persuaded it was not excessive."

4. A hospital governors' investigation claims there are no records of how £175,000 in charity grants to the rehabilitation project Compass was spent. Mr Morrissey's wife Doris was also taken on as a project worker while he was chairman of governors awarding the grants.

"The impression is given that this money went into somebody's pocket. That is quite mischievous," Mr Pattison said. "I have nothing to be ashamed of."

He added: "Ron Morrissey had nothing to do with his wife's appointment She got the job because she was the best qualified candidate."

5. A Golf GTi bought for the use of Mr Morrissey's wife Doris while at Compass. On reflection, Mr Pattison admits that was inadvisable.

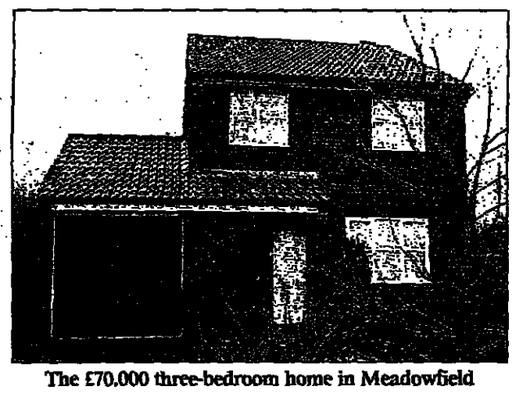
The house Pattison tried to hide

THIS is the house that the Master of Christ's Hospital in Sherburn tried to keep hidden (Stephen Farrell writes). The £70,000 three-bedroom detached home overlooks the picturesque former mining village of Meadowfield in Co Durham.

The Rev Graham Pattison has repeatedly claimed he had nowhere to go if evicted from his 150-year-old Grade II listed residence in the hospital grounds. But Land Registry documents show the joint proprietors of a house in Meadowfield since June 1, 1989, to be Mr Pattison and his wife Valerie.

In November, hospital governors gave the cleric eight weeks' notice to quit the rent-free Master's House when the Bishop of Durham turned down his appeal against dismissal for misconduct. The deadline expired on Friday, and governors will meet tomorrow to decide on legal action.

Mr Pattison told *The Times* last Friday: "At the moment we have no house of our own to go to. As a last resort we have one or two kind friends who would give us a roof over our heads and put our furniture into storage in this desperate situation."



The £70,000 three-bedroom home in Meadowfield

Asked if he owned any property elsewhere, he said: "If we were able to go and live in a house somewhere nice we would go and live in it. It would be lovely. But we do not want to cash in our savings at an early stage before retirement in order to buy a property. I wish I had got into the housing market long ago, before the cost of getting into it now."

Confronted by the Land Registry evidence yesterday he at first said: "I don't know, I'm unable to go to any house," then insisted he did not own it. "This is my wife's house. I have never contributed a penny towards that house. I had to relinquish anything to do with the house when I became unemployed."

He emphasised there were reasons why it was "absolutely impossible" his wife could live there, but refused to say what they were. "I cannot just go and live in that house. It is not my prerogative."

The house is occupied by a tenant. The Durham estate agents J. W. Wood confirmed that it was let for six months in December, after the bishop turned down Mr Pattison's appeal, for £450 a month. Neighbours say it has been home to a succession of tenants during the past year.

Mr Pattison denied receiving £450 a month rent. "My wife does not derive that income. She does derive a much smaller income."

Delusion fuels stalkers' absurd and hopeless devotions

MEDICAL BRIEFING

A FEW years ago one of my colleagues was pursued by a stalker. She never knew who he was, never saw him and never spoke to him but for about 18 months messages, from time to time daily, were left for her.

The stalker praised her appearance, was the first to comment on any new hairstyle or clothes, he assessed her choice of restaurant and theatre, evaluated her work and lavished presents on her. Her house was filled with flowers but she was in a quandary about what to do with the chocolates; they looked delicious but it was impossible to be certain that his unrequited adoration had not been soured by frustration and that they had not been injected with some noxious substance. One day a message accompanying an even larger bunch of flowers than usual said that his love was undying but that she would not be hearing from him again; and she did not.

Psychiatrists call the compulsion erotomania, which results in somebody becoming absurdly and obsessively infatuated by another person whom they either barely know, or more often do not know at all but have seen only on television or read about. The basic delusion is that the pursuer is either loved intensely by his or her quarry or would be if they only knew each other. As a result the victim is bombarded by telephone calls, letters and presents and no chance is ever lost of a sighting.

The public figures that we know have been stalked over recent years include, as well as the Princess Royal, Monica Seles, Steffi Graf, Lady Helen Turner and Jodie Foster, but there are hundreds of other victims most of whom share one characteristic. If they are not national sporting heroes, or figures from the media or royal family, they are richer, more powerful and come from a higher social background than the pursuer.

An odd feature of the condition is that in the event of the people involved meeting, and even establishing some sort of relationship, no great physical passion is usually displayed by the stalkers. It seems that their love is more spiritual than sexual; they merely want the opportunity to display a dog-like, but possessive, devotion.

Although stalking can be a symptom of neurotic as well as psychotic behaviour, there is always the possibility that it can become the basis of a delusional sexual jealousy and part of a paranoid psychotic disorder. Gross sexual jealousy is always taken seriously by psychiatrists. President Reagan, for instance, was nearly murdered because of a man's demented love for Jodie Foster. It is not unusual to hear patients who have excessive jealousy saying: "If I can't have her, (or him) nobody will."

The family of the man thought to be following the Princess has said that apart from his fixation he is normal, unaggressive and kind. Psychiatrists, however, were wise to warn the police and to take such delusional symptoms seriously.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Limit on small claims is increased

The limit on the size of disputes that can be heard by small claims courts is increased from £1,000 to £3,000 from today. The decision by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, follows proposals by Lord Woolf that much greater use should be made of the small claims court as part of his overhaul of civil justice.

Some 87,000 disputes a year are handled in the small claims courts, which could treble with the lifting of the limit. However, research has found the courts do not enjoy the confidence of many members of the public and are used mainly by the middle classes to sue other middle-class individuals.

Chinook crash inquiry begins

A fatal accident inquiry opens today at Paisley, Strathclyde, into the 29 deaths in an RAF Chinook helicopter crash at the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994. The victims included 10 members of the RUC Special Branch, nine Army intelligence officers and six MI5 officers who were on their way from Ulster to a security conference. The hearing is expected to last four weeks. An official MoD inquiry put the blame on pilot error.

Dental doubts

Most MPs believe dental treatment in the next century will be offered on the NHS only to children and those on low incomes, according to a survey on behalf of the British Dental Association. Dentists have called on the Goverment to increase funding to ensure NHS treatment for all.

Prisoners sought

Irish police are searching for 30 prisoners who failed to return from Christmas parole. The group includes John McCallister, 44, who is serving seven years for the manslaughter of a German tourist. He was among 309 prisoners released over Christmas by the Irish Justice Department.

Asbestos charge

Aston Villa Football Club will appear before Birmingham magistrates on Friday for alleged asbestos contamination at its Villa Park stadium. The Health and Safety Executive is to prosecute the club and a firm of contractors, claiming that asbestos was found during renovations.

Service as usual

Worshippers carried on with their service at St Andrew's Church in Rochford, Essex, after a chorister and a churchwarden chased three burglars out of the vestry during the service. One made his escape down the nave. Afterwards, credit cards and £150 were found to be missing.

£10m drug haul

Four men were being questioned yesterday over the seizure of cannabis resin worth more than £10 million at an industrial unit in Acocks Green, Birmingham. The 1,070kg haul was found after an investigation involving 50 officers from the West Midlands drugs squad.

Time flows by

A huge digital clock is being installed a foot under the River Liffey in Dublin as part of the city's countdown to the end of the millennium. Weighing several tons and with digits the size of a door, the neon display will be visible through the water close to O'Connell Bridge.

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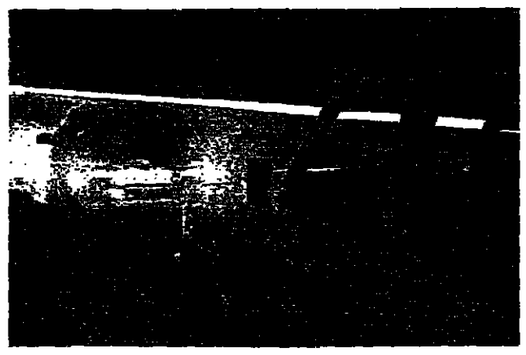
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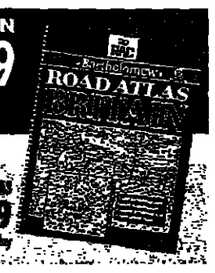
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هكذا من الأصل

Queen to attend St Paul's service

Gulf War plaque honours sailor stabbed in brawl

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A MEMORIAL to be placed in St Paul's Cathedral listing British service personnel killed in the Gulf War will be headed by a sailor stabbed by another crew member after a drunken brawl.

Forty-seven names appear on the memorial, made from Westmoreland slate and Portland stone, which will be placed next to Nelson's tomb in the crypt. It will be dedicated next month during a service attended by the Queen to mark the fifth anniversary of the war.

Able Seaman Maurice Foy, a 38-year-old merchant sailor, was found dead on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel *Sir Galahad* in February 1991 during the height of the war. He had been stabbed by Signalman Brian Craggs, also a merchant sailor, who was later found guilty of manslaughter and jailed for seven years.

The fatal incident on board the vessel occurred after a fight in the mess bar. Yesterday a Defence Ministry spokeswoman said: "Maurice Foy was presumably included because he died in the service of his country during the conflict."

The memorial was produced by Martin Jennings, a sculptor from Oxford who took three months to complete the work. He said yesterday that the 47 names had been given to him by the MoD. They originally appeared on a memorial tablet in an Anglican church in Ahmadi, about 15 miles from Kuwait City. *Both memorials were paid for* by the British Memorial Fund Kuwait, a group of mainly expatriates dedicated to helping the families of those killed in the war.

Mr Jennings said: "The MoD colonel I dealt with told me to include the same 47 names on the memorial for St Paul's Cathedral." Colleen Williams, who founded the organisation, said that she was given the names by the MoD.

The memorial tablet at St Paul's Church in Ahmadi was erected in November 1992 and the organisation paid for relatives of the dead to attend the service.

Mrs Williams declined to comment on the inclusion of Able Seaman Foy, although she said: "Some of the names are those killed while on active service and others who died actually in the campaign. We were governed by what the MoD said."

The heading on the 8ft-wide, wall-mounted tablet reads: "In honour of those British sailors, soldiers and airmen who gave their lives for the liberation of Kuwait during the Gulf War."

The names consist of two from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, 37 from the Army and eight from the RAF. *Sir Galahad*, a support vessel, was on duty in the Gulf during the war.

Catherine Foy O'Byrne, 40, *the dead sailor's elder sister*, said: "We are delighted. We wondered whether he would be included. It was a pretty tragic case and very difficult to deal with.

"We want to do this particulary for Maurice's two children and to pay tribute to him. We were a close family. We were there for the trial, which was very harrowing."

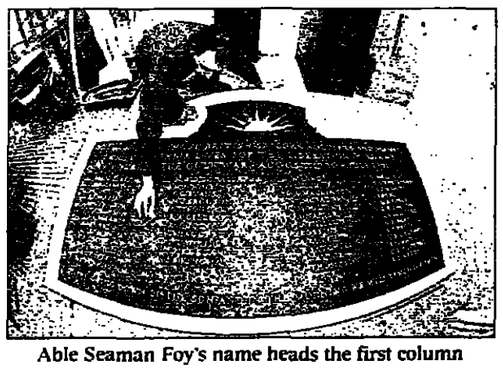
Many of Able Seaman Foy's family, including his mother Agnes, 71, will travel from Dublin to attend the dedication service to be led in the cathedral by the Archbishop of Canterbury on February 28.

*They will join the late sail*or's wife Wendy and their daughters, aged fourteen and nine years, who live in Cornwall. Michael Foy, 36, his brother, said: "We will go over in February as a tribute to our brother. He was a hero in our eyes.

"He was the eldest brother among 11 children. The visit is our farewell to him. They are recognising his death but really it doesn't help us much. It is very hard for us, given the circumstances of Maurice's death. This means a good deal to my mother."

On the night of the killing, Craggs from Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and Able Seaman Foy, from Dublin, had been drinking together. A row broke out between them and Craggs had to be restrained and ordered to his cabin after punching and kicking his shipmate.

Able Seaman Foy was seen kicking at Craggs's cabin door but was told to go to bed. Later Craggs was found standing over Able Seaman Foy's body with a knife in his hand. At his trial at Oxford Crown Court, Craggs claimed Able Seaman Foy had woken him by banging on his cabin door and shouting: "I'm going to kill you."



Able Seaman Foy's name heads the first column

ANTHONY UPTON



A protester known as Perian makes his way along one of the rope walkways that links the camps' 60 treehouses perched 40ft above ground

Anti-road warriors prepare for third battle of Newbury

By Adrian Lee

PROTESTERS camped along the route of the proposed Newbury by-pass were finalising their battle plans yesterday as the Highways Agency prepared to go to the High Court this week to evict them from a network of treehouses and tunnels.

The fight for nine miles of countryside, including part of an English Civil War battlefield, promises to be the most bitter Berkshire has seen since Roundheads and Cavaliers clashed twice in the 17th century.

This time the weapons of the growing band of green campaigners will be mobile telephones, pagers, CB radios and the Internet. When the first bulldozer moves in, the campaigners — who call themselves the Third Battle of Newbury Group — claim they will mobilise up to 1,000 sympathisers.

Last week protesters won a two-week delay when the first eviction orders were heard at the High Court. The next are due on Thursday but if the protesters' spoiling tactics are again successful another factor will come into play. Each delay means the nesting season, which could halt clearance work for several weeks, comes closer.

In the nine camps, which include Tree Pixie Village and Granny Ash, the protesters have posted 24-hour look outs. Their colleagues wear climbing harnesses and ropes and when the first rumble of machinery is heard, scores will take to the trees.

Their homes, stocked with several weeks' supply of food and water, are perched precariously 30-40ft above the ground and linked by rope walkways. In all, there are about 60 treehouses.

At one camp on Snelsmore Common, a network of tunnels is said to extend more than 150ft into the clay. The tunnels, about 3ft high and shored with scrap wood, can also house protesters for several weeks.

"We are learning new *things all the time*," said one of the camp dwellers who calls himself Hum the Hawk. "It will be difficult for them to get us out of the tunnels and they also make the ground unstable and means they can't move heavy machinery over the top."

Campaigners have been shown how to padlock themselves to machinery and, at some of the camps, concrete blocks have been set in oil barrels and buried in the ground. When the time comes hands can be thrust into small holes in the concrete and chained. They can be removed only if the entire "lock-on point" is dug free.

Hum, from Newcastle upon Tyne, is a veteran of three protests. "Once the bailiffs come in and they start cutting down trees I think it is inevitable they will move us out eventually. It is a case of holding out for as long as possible to heighten awareness about what is being done here and hitting the Government where it hurts, in the pocket."

The 27-year-old has another motive for prolonging the struggle against the new dual-carriageway. Like many of the campaigners, he has nowhere else to live.

The protesters, who claim the £67 million A34 link will destroy some of the most beautiful countryside in southern England, claim there is no hierarchy within their group. But the protest bears all the hallmarks of a military operation.

An elaborate "phone tree" will alert hundreds of supporters from all over the country when clearance work starts. At an office in Newbury, funded by Friends of the Earth and next door to the district council headquarters, computers donated by supporters, photocopiers and fax machines are used in the propaganda war.

Supporters of the bypass accuse the activists of using the Internet to send out false information about the effects of the road.

The first two battles of Newbury were decided by the use of pikes and staffs. In the third, it is new technology that will play a key role.



"Dave" in one of the tunnels that could be a bolthole

Few allies in town besieged by the car

IN THE market town of Newbury, population 28,000, shoppers were apparently united in their support for the bypass and distaste for the protesters. "Get on with it as soon as possible," Victor Gregory, 70, said. "And if they don't come down from the trees, cut them down with them. You can sometimes get a six-mile queue coming into town and you have to build roads somewhere."

Opponents claim that a bypass will provide only a temporary fix, but devastate the environment. They say better public transport and traffic management schemes are the answer. But supporters, including David Rendel, the town's Liberal Democrat MP, and the district council, *claim that 50,000 vehicles* a day strangle the town. More than half is through-traffic, 19 per cent is lorries, and pollution in the town centre is three times higher than in other areas.

"Trade is down by 15 per cent in the last year," Peter Gilmour, information officer for Newbury District Council, said. "There can be no argument that there is a desperate need for the bypass."

Yvonne Northcott, 51, a school secretary, said: "I am all for it, it is absolutely dreadful trying to get out of town and it is getting worse. I think these people are lucky to have so much time to spend up trees. They think the countryside is so beautiful but they don't seem to care about the pollution in the town caused by the traffic."

Dual Monty tribute planned

By A Staff Reporter

FIELD MARSHAL Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, commander of the Allied land forces on D-Day, is to be honoured in bronze on both sides of the Channel. Identical statues are planned for Portsmouth and a French village in Normandy that was liberated on D-Day.

Monty was commander of the Portsmouth garrison before the Second World War. The second two-metre high statue will be at the French village, which changed its name to Colleville-Montgomery after its liberation by British troops.

The £15,000 statue destined for Colleville-Montgomery was commissioned by the Normandy Veterans' Association from the sculptor Vivien Mallock, who has a studio near Andover, Hampshire. The village is providing the plinth, landscaping and maintenance for the statue, which is to be unveiled on June 6, the 52nd anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Portsmouth council hopes to fund a cast of the statue and another of a Normandy campaign soldier from a £40,000 public appeal. Both Portsmouth statues would be sited outside the D-Day Museum in Southsea.

Mrs Mallock's statue of Monty will show the field marshal in his military uniform but wearing over it his favourite flying jacket.

Foreigners win fight for hotel beds

By Harvey Elliott
Travel Correspondent

RECORD numbers of foreign tourists are filling hotels in the most popular parts of Britain and pushing prices beyond the reach of most domestic holidaymakers.

In London, foreign visitors now fill about 70 per cent of all available hotel beds while hotels in the South, South East, Yorkshire, Cumbria, East Anglia and East Midlands claim that more than 10 per cent of their rooms are taken by foreign guests.

Only in the North West, where only 2 per cent of rooms are taken by guests from overseas, and Northumbria, where the figure is 6 per cent, are more than 90 per cent of available rooms used by tourists. In the first ten months of last year there were more than 20 million foreign visitors, a rise of 11 per cent over the same period in 1994. "Demand is now outstripping supply," Richard Tobias, chief executive of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, said. "That naturally leads to a hardening of prices.

"We desperately need thousands more hotel rooms now but the first to have been given the go ahead will not be ready until 1997. The problem is that foreign package tourist follow a well-worn trail around the country. We are *trying to persuade them to visit parts* other than London, the South East and other popular areas."

Russians are now being wooed to Blackpool, the Japanese to Yorkshire and the French are flocking to supermarkets throughout the South to take advantage of the weak pound. The number of Americans visiting Britain is expected to rise by 7 per cent this year with a particularly strong growth in the number of people aged between 55 and 64. Foreign tour operators have already booked hotel rooms up to 18 months in advance, ensuring that 1997 should be another successful year for the British industry.

"We now know that the available hotels will be full," Mr Tobias said. "We need at least another 10,000 beds in *London alone just to meet the demand* and have 1,000 gradually coming on stream. We hope there will be a further 2,000 in 1997 and that the rest will be built before the end of the century."

Long, hot summer spoilt by litter

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

LITTER levels on Britain's beaches have risen by 60 per cent over the past 12 months, according to a study published today.

Coastal litter is feared to be adding to the risks suffered by wildlife. A million birds and 100,000 mammals such as dolphins, whales and sea turtles die world-wide each year after becoming entangled in rubbish or eating plastics, according to the International Conference on Marine Debris.

The increase in Britain's coastal litter identified in the annual Beachwatch survey was blamed on thoughtless tourists who flocked to beaches during the long, hot summer of 1995, and the continuing problems of ships and water companies that use the oceans as rubbish dumps.

Russell Twisk, a spokesman for the survey, which is carried out by the Marine Conservation Society and *Reader's Digest*, said: "Last year's sunshine summer brought more people than ever to our beautiful coastline, proving how important our bathing beaches are to Britain.

"Unfortunately they brought more litter and left more of it behind."

Rubbish generated by visitors, including drinks cans, sweet bags, crisp *packets and plastic cups*, accounted for 18.5 per cent of the total.

More than 305,000 items were found on 196 stretches of coastline around Britain and Northern Ireland. Waste from shipping came a close second, accounting for 18.05 per cent of rubbish. Nearly 28,000 pieces of plastic rope and more than 3,000 pieces of fishing nets were found.

The third most *prevalent items*, 12.09 per cent, were sewage-related, and these included more than 17,000 cotton bud sticks.

The dirtiest: 1 Jack Scout Cove, Silverdale, Lancs (166.07 items per metre); 2 Western Shore, Sunderland Point, Lancs (93.20); 3 Skinningrove Beach, Saltburn, Cleveland (81.14); 4 Port Laing, North Queensferry, Fife; 5 East Sands, North Queensferry, Fife (47.16); 6 Fleshwick Bay, Isle of Man (37.47).
The cleanest: 1 Le Port aux Melades, Castel, Guernsey (0.01); 2 Fermain, St Peter Port, Guernsey (0.03); 3, Cefn Sidan Beach, Llanelli, Dyfed (0.04); 4 Abbotsham to Greencliff, near Bideford, Devon (0.09); 5 Portelet, St Martin's, Guernsey (0.11); 6 Ryde Sands, Ryde, Isle of Wight (0.12).

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Italy shrugs off British fear of federalist plan



Richard Owen interviews Italy's Foreign Minister and hears why majority voting is inevitable for Europe

SUSANNA AGNELLI, the Italian Foreign Minister, has outlined a federalist programme for the European Union which is likely to ring alarm bells in Britain. It includes a common foreign policy, extended majority voting and increased powers for the European Parliament.

Italy took over the EU presidency from Spain this month and Signora Agnelli is embarking on a tour of European capitals this week before addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg. She acknowledged in an interview that her enthusiasm for European integration was in contrast to the attitude of her predecessor, Antonio Martino, who was "rather British in his approach". But she hoped for an agreement with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on a proposal for ad hoc mediators on foreign policy rather than a "foreign minister for Europe".

Signora Agnelli said: "I am especially interested in having a unified foreign policy. The British do not like this idea, because they are afraid it might mean one particular person representing the whole of Europe. But that is not my idea at all." Signora Agnelli said America must not be allowed to dominate conflict resolution, and she proposed ad hoc mediators from Europe on conflicts such as Cyprus, where a senior Italian official is holding exploratory talks.

Signora Agnelli, 73, became Foreign Minister a year ago when Lamberto Dini formed an interim Government after the collapse of the centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon. This week parliament will decide whether the Dini administration should continue until the end of the Italian EU presidency in June. Signor Berlusconi, who has flirted with the idea of a "government of national unity" to complete electoral reform, indicated at the weekend that elections were back on the agenda.

Because of her status — she is the sister of Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat magnate — and her lack of involvement in current politics, Signora Agnelli has a freewheeling, no-nonsense style which some find refreshing and others alarming. She retired from politics at the last election and had not expected to be "fished out" to serve in Signor Dini's "technocratic" Government. But her privileged upbringing had served her well. "When I went to Luxembourg they asked me if I would like to meet the Grand Duke. I said, of course, we used to play on the beach together on the Riviera."

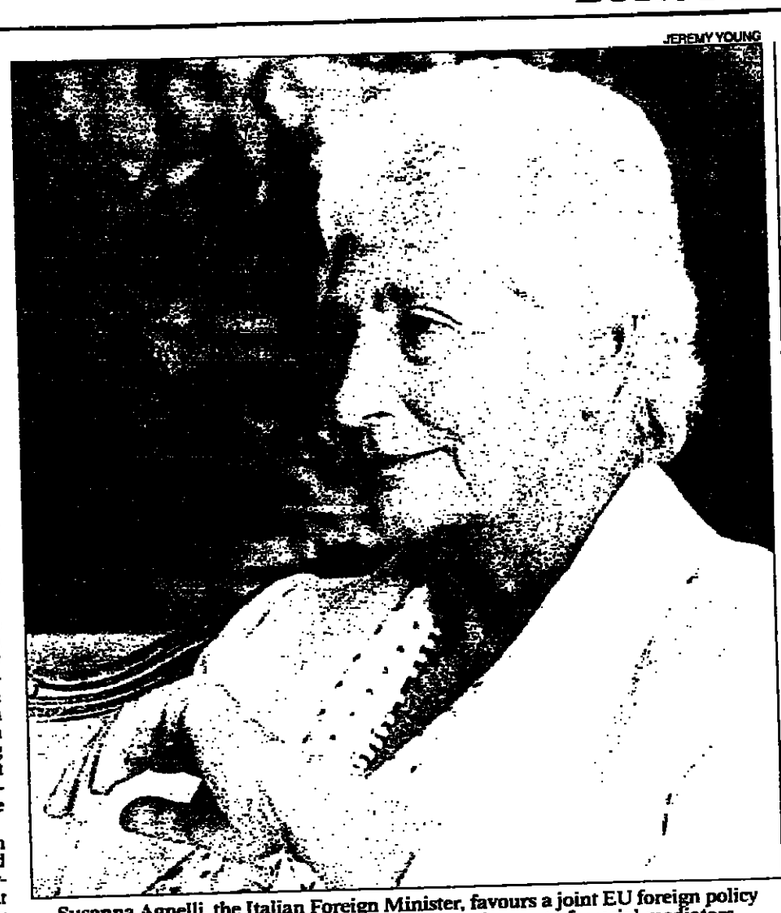
She said she had been "very fond" of Douglas Hurd when he was Foreign Secretary, and enjoyed his sense of humour, "but I have just as good a time with Malcolm Rifkind. I was brought up in a very British atmosphere".

Signora Agnelli said she did not, however, share the "British-style" Euro-scepticism displayed by Signor Martino. Most Italians regarded doubts about European integration as "anathema". Although Italy is unlikely to meet the terms for a single currency, it remains committed to full monetary union. Signora Agnelli believed Euro-MPs should have more say in legislation, giving them "the power a parliament would have nationally". Majority voting in the Council of Ministers was inevitable because of future enlargement with a consequent erosion of national veto power.

Europe's approach to the former Yugoslavia had been a mistake, with each country voicing its own interests. Britain and France had made a "fantastic" contribution, but in the end "the impression Europe gave was of not being there". It was "a shame" that Richard Holbrooke, the American mediator, had had to save the day in Bosnia.

"Cyprus is a European problem, too — it has applied for membership, as has Turkey — and there should be at least a European mediator alongside the American one."

JEREMY YOUNG



Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, favours a joint EU foreign policy and hopes that Britain will agree to the appointment of special mediators

Bombings spur talks in Corsica

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government is holding secret talks with Corsican separatists after an intensified wave of bombings on the Mediterranean island.

Early yesterday another bomb exploded in a government school building in Bastia, causing serious damage but no injuries. The outlawed National Front for the Liberation of Corsica (FLNC), which wants autonomy from France, claimed responsibility for the attack, the ninth since January 1.

On Friday a military recreation building in southern Corsica was destroyed by separatists and over the weekend bombs exploded outside the homes of two prominent judges.

The surge of violence is intended to renew pressure on French officials who have begun secret discussions with the separatists, according to *Libération* newspaper. Government negotiators are said to have offered an amnesty to leaders of the independence movement as well as "material concessions" on reforming the island's institutions.

Clerides accuses police of killings

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

PRESIDENT Clerides of Cyprus has accused his police force of committing murders and of being involved in bombings, arson attacks and gangland battles to control drugs, gambling and prostitution.

Some killings were carried out with the knowledge of superiors, and officers at the highest level were involved in corruption, he added. There will be an inquiry.

Nearly a million Britons holiday every year on the island, where mugging is unknown and only the paranoid lock cars. But in recent months owners of seedy cabarets and massage parlours have been assassinated by masked gunmen, cars blown up and nightclubs set ablaze. Eight murders from last year remain unsolved.

The President's allegations were made public at the weekend in a letter he wrote accepting the resignation of the assistant police chief, Costas Papacostas. The chief, Andreas Potamaris, is abroad, but is expected to resign for "health reasons".

In November it was revealed that officers in Limassol were guilty of torturing suspects in a manner "reminiscent of the Middle Ages and the Inquisition". An independent board of inquiry reported there was "an organised system of subjecting detainees to inhuman torture aimed at securing confessions".

After an inquiry, the Government said victims were entitled to compensation. Twelve Limassol officers, including chief inspectors and superintendents, face the sack.

Yeltsin adds his brick to 'rebirth' of cathedral

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE last bricks in the shell of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour — destroyed by Stalin in 1931 — were laid in Moscow yesterday by President Yeltsin, Patriarch Aleksei II, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow.

"The re-creation of this holy place renews people's faith that Russia will be reborn, like this cathedral," said Mr Yeltsin before a short service to mark the Russian Orthodox Christmas. The 330ft redbrick shell now towers over the Moscow river on what was an empty site a year ago. Its domes will be gilded over in time for Easter. The original cathedral was built to celebrate Russia's victory over Napoleon.

Behind the project is Mr Luzhkov, who has bullied public and private donors to finance it. More than 3,000 builders have worked round the clock to keep the church on its deadline of September 1997. The overall cost, not including the interior, is expected to be almost £200 million.

Critics of the new cathedral say it is an extravagant waste of money dreamed up by former Communist leaders keen to establish their credentials as Russian nationalists. Its admirers say it is an act of atonement for years of religious repression under the Soviet regime.

"It is a symbol of Orthodox Russia," said Boris Lyudogovsky, an engineer. "It is well known that it was built in honour of the patriotic war. So it is a symbol of the Russian people's ability to defend the independence of its motherland." But Valentina Cheredeyeva, a biologist, said it was a "sin" to rebuild the church. "It is too grandiose."

Leading article, page 17

Nato to hit back after shootings

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NATO troops in Bosnia, who have come under fire four times in three days, yesterday vowed to hit back with ferocity.

British troops came under fire in the towns of Sanski Most and Bosanska Krupa in northwest Bosnia on Saturday. French troops patrolling the Serb area of Sarajevo aimed cannon fire at unknown assailants amid wild shooting to celebrate Orthodox Christmas Eve.

A French Falcon 50 aircraft was also hit by two small-arms rounds as it came into Sarajevo to land yesterday, said Major Simon Haselock, spokesman for the Ifor implementation force.

Spanish troops meanwhile patrolled the streets of Mostar, the divided southern Bosnian city, said to be "calm but tense" after a series of clashes between Muslims and Croats.

Croat police who shot dead a Muslim youth in the city used armour-piercing bullets which have a shattering effect on the human body, European Union officials said. The same kind of bullets, made of strengthened steel and coated in copper, were also used to wound two Muslim police officers last Thursday, although it is not clear whether Croat police, soldiers or civilians fired the shots.

Hans Koschnik, the city's EU administrator, said yesterday that the situation could quickly become "catastrophic" if nothing was done to calm tensions.

American diplomacy will intensify this week ahead of the planned visit to Bosnia by President Clinton, in an attempt to shore up the Muslim-Croat Federation, a cornerstone of the fragile peace settlement. Richard Holbrooke, the architect of the accords concluded in November in Dayton, Ohio, will travel to the Balkans after warning that tension between Muslims and Croats is now the "greatest threat" to peace in Bosnia.

Mr Clinton is supposed to inspect the implementation force troops before January 23, the date he is to deliver his State of the Union address to Congress.



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Documentary film accuses China of condemning orphanage children to death

TV broadcast threatens Rifkind goodwill visit

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

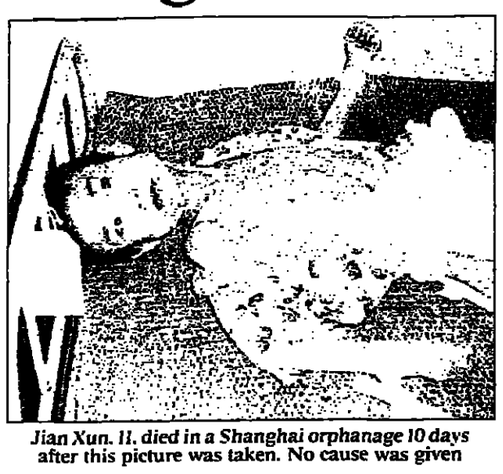
ALLEGATIONS that China starves children to death in orphanages threaten to sour a visit by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, to Peking beginning tomorrow.

Claims that unwanted infants, especially girls, are subjected to appalling, often fatal suffering are due to be broadcast on British television tomorrow as Mr Rifkind arrives in the Chinese capital.

China has pressed for the programme to be withdrawn. The British Government, reeling from criticism that it has bowed to Saudi pressure and trade interests in deporting Dr Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident, made clear yesterday that it was in no position to call for the broadcast to be cancelled.

The programme, *Return to the Dying Rooms*, is based on a report by the Human Rights Watch/Asia organisation.

Liu Jianchao, First Secretary at the Chinese Embassy in London, said at the weekend that it "will poison the atmosphere between China and Britain. It is a very bad move, very detrimental". He also gave a warning that it would not be "conducive" to Mr Rifkind's visit to Peking, where he will discuss human rights, trade and Hong Kong.



Jian Xun, 11, died in a Shanghai orphanage 10 days after this picture was taken. No cause was given

A Chinese Embassy spokesman added that the programme "will harm the mutual understanding between the Chinese people and Britain". The Chinese Government swiftly issued details of health-care improvements and invited James Pringle, Peking Correspondent of *The Times*, and other foreign media to inspect the Shanghai orphanage cited in the Human Rights Watch report as one of the worst offenders until 1993.

Vaccination rates for the main child diseases had risen to more than 80 per cent in the 1990s, while child deaths from measles had fallen by 97.47 per cent, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Cases of child malnutrition had fallen by 23.82 per cent compared with 1990, Xinhua added, but gave no figures.

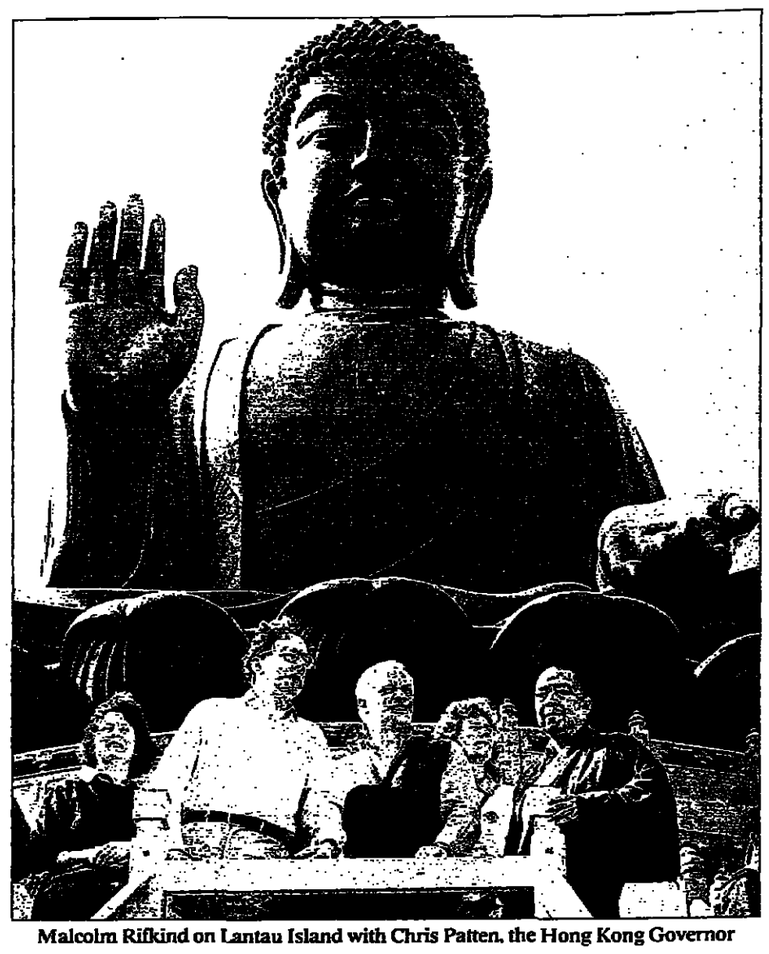
That improvement in nutrition was in sharp contrast to the report, which cited figures published by China's Ministry of Civil Affairs and orphanage workers showing "third-degree malnutrition" as the most common cause of death at the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute in the early 1990s.

China's State Council dismissed the allegations, saying: "We have not yet seen this so-called report ... this report of blame against our orphanages is totally without foundation."

In London, the Chinese Embassy has written to Peter Salmon, Channel 4's controller of factual programmes, saying the documentary, to be broadcast at 9pm tomorrow, "attempts to defame China, attacks its family planning policy and misleads public opinion".

Mr Rifkind arrived in Hong Kong on Saturday for a four-day visit before leaving for Peking. He will meet Chinese leaders to build on progress achieved during the October visit to London by his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

Letters, page 17



Malcolm Rifkind on Lantau Island with Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor

America braced for visa backlash

FROM REUTER
IN PEKING

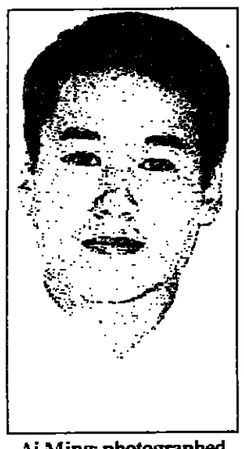
CHINA was weighing its options yesterday after the United States issued a transit visa to Vice-President Li Yuan-zu of Taiwan.

Political analysts said that, whatever its response, Peking would feel that Washington was not listening to its grievances. America announced on Saturday that it had issued a transit visa allowing the Vice-President's aircraft to stop in Los Angeles on his way to and from Guatemala.

"There will be no public activity during the transits," said Phyllis Young, the State Department spokeswoman. "This is consistent with our policy and with our unofficial relationship with Taiwan."

Relations between China and America were virtually frozen after a visit by President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan last June. Diplomats in the United States contend that the Vice-President's visa will not cause such great repercussions, although they expect China to take some action against America.

'Thousands disappear into a secret world of starvation'



Ai Ming: photographed "dying room" babies

***Jonathan Mirsky** writes of the most shocking rights violations he has encountered in 40 years of watching China, worse than the Tiananmen affair, Tibet's repression and the Cultural Revolution*

CHILDREN are dying by the thousands in Chinese orphanages — condemned as the world's worst.

That is the conclusion of a report, *Death by Default: A Policy of Fatal Neglect in China's State Orphanages*, published by the US-based Human Rights Watch.

The 331-page document, co-authored by Robin Munro, a leading authority on Chinese human rights, and Jeff Rigsby, states: "China's orphanages are places of no return for the majority of abandoned infants ... with death rates (in 1989) far exceeding those recorded in Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania during the same period."

As a national average, the report claims, an infant stands a 50 per cent chance of surviving the first year. In some provinces annual mortality rates range from almost 60 to more than 70 per cent.

In the most prestigious orphanage, Shanghai's Children's Welfare Institute, which receives much foreign support, the total mortality from the late 1980s to the early 1990s "was probably running as high as 90 per cent".

The report describes "a secret world of starvation, disease and unnatural death, a world into which thousands of Chinese citizens disappear every year ... they are the orphans and abandoned children in custodial institutions run by Shanghai's Bureau of Civil Affairs".

The report is based on official documents, including published mortality figures and internal investigations by municipal bodies, together with interviews with medical staff and former inmates who were punished trying to halt maltreatment.

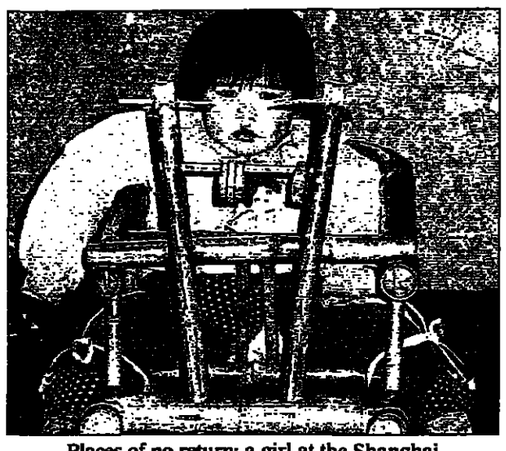
That information included photographs of babies in the "dying rooms" which were taken secretly by Wi Ming, a doctor who spent 20 years at the Shanghai orphanage before leaving China in 1995.

At the weekend, the Civil Affairs Ministry called the report "all lies and fabrications" and insisted that, while mortality figures are high, most children who die were seriously ill when they entered the orphanages.

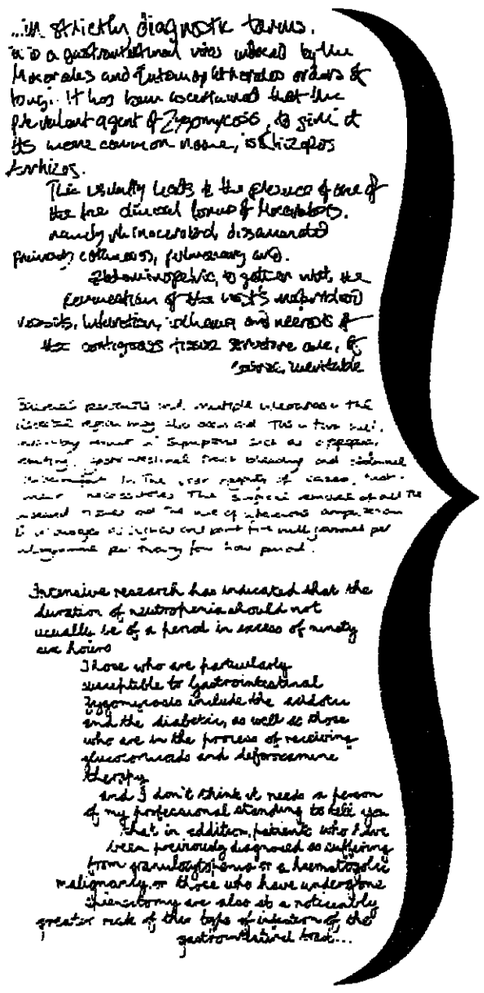
The report's authors say orphanages' staff allow children to die of hunger, thirst, and cold, and withhold medical treatment. Internal medical notes — which the ministry says are forgeries — show most are healthy when admitted, even though some are handicapped. Death reports are falsified, with many deaths attributed to "mental deficiency" and "cleft palate" — handicaps that are rarely fatal.

There has been an acceleration in orphanage mortality since the inauguration of the one-child-per-family policy in 1979 which led to a dramatic rise in the abandonment by parents of baby girls. They make up about 90 per cent of inmates.

Deliberate lethal neglect is also made easier because of a second national policy: only "perfect" parents are now encouraged or permitted to bear children.



Places of no return: a girl at the Shanghai orphanage is left alone tied to her chair



NEWS IN BRIEF

Eight killed by Karachi bus bomb

Karachi: A bomb on a bus taking 50 government workers home exploded here yesterday, killing at least eight people and wounding 35 (Zahid Hussein writes). Most of the wounded have serious burns.

The bus was on a busy road leading to the airport when the bomb went off. Nobody has yet claimed responsibility. More than 2,000 people died in political and ethnic violence here last year. Another 40 have died since the new year.

Letters, page 17

Guatemala poll

Guatemala City: Polls opened in Guatemala's presidential run-off election between Alvaro Arzu, of the National Vanguard Party, and Alfonso Portillo, of the Guatemalan Republican Front. *(AFP)*

Envoy expelled

Geneva: A Russian diplomat at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva was expelled last month for "illegal intelligence activities", a spokesman for the Swiss Justice Department said. *(AFP)*

Refusal to quit

Warsaw: Jozef Oleksy rejected calls to resign as Polish Prime Minister over claims that he had been a Moscow spy, but said he would not run for leader of the former Communists until cleared. *(AP)*

Bridge toll

Elkhovo: The death toll from Saturday's collapse of a crowded footbridge rose to six. About 80 people watching a Bulgarian festival fell into the River Toundja but most scrambled to safety. *(Reuter)*

Kindness kills

Lelystad: A Dutch motorist aged 72 was run over and killed after he stopped on a motorway north of Amsterdam to give first aid to a rabbit, the Dutch news agency ANP reported. *(Reuter)*

Judge urges shake-up of Pretoria's arms agency

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A COMMISSION of inquiry investigating apartheid-era weapons deals is to recommend a management shake-up at Armscor, South Africa's state arms agency, and tougher regulations covering the sale of arms, it was reported yesterday.

In its first report, released in July last year, the government-appointed Cameron commission of inquiry severely censured Armscor's management for negligence and maladministration. The Johannesburg *Sunday Independent* said yesterday the latest recommendations suggest that a new board be appointed to restructure the organisation.

If the recommendations are accepted, Armscor will lose its role of controlling South Africa's arms exports. The commission proposes that an independent body should take over.

Mr Justice Cameron was appointed by Joe Modise, the Defence Minister, to head an investigation in September 1994, after it was discovered that Armscor had sold AK-47 assault rifles to Yemen in defiance of a South African government ban.

The first report found that the former apartheid Government had, in effect, supported both sides in the Lebanon civil war, selling weapons to the Christian militia and the Lebanese Government. Armscor also sold large quantities of arms to countries making up the former Yugoslavia.

The commission found that the Government of National Unity had been ignorant of the illicit sale of arms to Yemen in 1994. It recommended the dismissal of three Armscor officials, who resigned or retired shortly before the report was released.

While President Mandela has backed South African arms sales as a valuable source of income for reconstruction and development, he has warned arms companies not to flout international agreements. In recent months the Government has signalled its intention to get tough with the arms industry, examining all arms exports on a case-by-case basis. President Mandela's office said he had received the report and was studying it. The report will be presented to the arms control committee on January 18.

The troubled health system is also set for a radical shake-up in the next few months, with a fundamental shift towards primary health care and greater responsibility for employers to provide financial help with medical treatment.

Provincial health ministers are studying the final draft of a new national health plan which will be submitted to the Cabinet when it meets again after the Christmas break.

The target date for the introduction has been set for April 1. Nkosazana Zuma, the Health Minister, will soon announce details of the plan which envisages: free primary health care; an essential drugs list which will be available free to primary health care patients; employers will have to provide a basic hospital plan or medical aid for all employees; and hospital budgets will be cut and charges introduced.

The burden of funding the plan will fall largely on the shoulders of taxpayers. But the essential drugs list is projected to save hundreds of millions of rands.

Senior medical figures are concerned about the prospect of falling standards in health care and many are said to be sceptical about the plan.

Mugabe rejects IMF demands

Harare: President Mugabe admitted he had reached an impasse with the International Monetary Fund over the bank's demands for economic reforms, but said he would not agree to spending cuts (Jan Raath writes).

Mr Mugabe, quoted in the state-controlled *Sunday Mail* newspaper, said the Government had agreed to reduce the civil service, but wanted to do so gradually and provide a "safety net" service for dismissed state workers.

Peacemaking Punjab police chief sacked in human rights clean-up

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

THE INDIAN police chief who brought peace to Punjab through the violence of his officers is considering "a vast array of opportunities" after being fired in a terse, late-night message by fax.

The dismissal of the hard-drinking K.P.S. Gill is a sign of India's determination to clean up a human-rights image sullied by sanctioned brutality in Punjab and Kashmir. Punjab was, per capita, one of the world's most violent places. Separatist militant organisations, fighting ostensibly for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan, killed at random, as did police. Tens of thousands of people went missing in the slaughter, which ended a few years ago with the death or flight of the last active gunman.

Mr Gill, 62, was then a national hero, even if international human rights organisations criticised his tactics. But continuing peace made him an embarrassment, and his trial later this month for allegedly smacking the backside of a woman civil servant at a party added to official discomfort. The decision to order his retirement, well beyond the normal age, was made at the highest government levels.

He has been signed up by Penguin India to write his autobiography and is moving to Delhi, where he hopes to write for newspapers.



Bush: accused of being amateurish

Russian informer 'betrayed by Bush'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

GEORGE BUSH bungled his dealings with the Soviet Union, claims the former US Ambassador to Moscow, Jack Matlock.

On one occasion, the former President inadvertently betrayed a highly placed Russian official who had secretly asked the Americans to alert Boris Yeltsin to the impending coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, says Mr Matlock in his memoirs.

"I would not have expected this from a former head of the CIA who prided himself on professionalism and was quick to condemn any leak of the most trivial information," writes Mr Matlock.

Partly due to the "reckless" indiscretion, Gary Popov, the economic reformer who warned of the impending coup, was on the plotters' short-list of those to be arrested when they made their abortive coup attempt two months later. According to Mr Matlock, the Popov incident was symptomatic of the frequently amateurish and flawed dealings with Moscow by Mr Bush.

Mr Bush, he concludes, "always seemed just a step behind, always looking over his shoulder". Ronald Reagan, by contrast, is portrayed as an astute leader who readily accepted Mr Matlock's advice in developing Soviet policy.

Critics have greeted Mr Matlock's exhaustive account, *Autopsy on an Empire*, as the most intelligent analysis of the Soviet collapse so far. But there are suggestions that he is settling old scores. Despite his seniority as a Soviet expert, he felt frozen out of Washington's top policy circles when Mr Bush took office in 1989.

Investigators close in as 'lost' papers are found

First Lady sinks deeper into mire of Whitewater

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON is to publish a book this week on how society can better serve children, but the big promotional tour her publishers have planned for her is likely to prove a debacle.

The First Lady is in deep political trouble after the belated release of several incriminating documents last week, and the last thing journalists will want to ask her about is her views on children. Indeed, seven of the ten questions in her first interview with *Newsweek* yesterday concerned the Whitewater affair and her role in the 1993 sacking of the seven-man White House travel office.

Mrs Clinton refused to predict whether she would be subpoenaed to testify before congressional investigators, but it looks increasingly possible they will now take that extraordinary step.

Over the weekend Alfonse D'Amato, the Senate Whitewater committee chairman, accused the White House of "conduct that borders on contempt, obstruction and making false statements" following its sudden and suspicious "discovery" of the long-sought documents.

Mr D'Amato and other investigators have already subpoenaed, interrogated and — in two cases — levelled perjury charges against the First Lady's closest friends and aides. It is clear that they are now homing in on Mrs Clinton herself.

The only passage in her book likely to command immediate attention is an apparent admission that she has in the past contemplated leaving her husband. "My strong feelings about divorce and its effects on children have caused me to bite my tongue more than a few times during my own marriage and to think instead about what I could do to be a better wife," she writes.

The first set of documents included a memorandum by David Watkins, a former White House aide, saying there would have been "hell to pay" had he refused Mrs Clinton's demands that he immediately sack the travel office. There was no obvious reason for the dismissals, except that Harry Thomason, a Hollywood friend of the Clintons, wanted the business for his own aviation firm. The memo, released late last Wednesday night, flatly contradicts evidence Neil Eggleston, a White House lawyer, gave a General Accounting Office investigation of the sackings in 1994. Mrs Clinton "does not know the origin of the decision" to dismiss the travel office and "had no role in the decision", he said.

All but one of the sacked men were later exonerated and rehired. The seventh was tried for embezzlement but a jury took just two hours to acquit him. Mrs Clinton told *Newsweek* "I just don't have any memory" of ordering the sackings, but a House committee has subpoenaed Mr Watkins and Mr Thomason to testify.

The Watkins memo also referred intriguingly to the "secret service situation" earlier in 1993. It appears he failed to act on Mrs Clinton's orders that suspect agents be tranferred after *Newsweek* published a story about her throwing objects at her husband in their private quarters.

The second set of documents was released on Friday night, again too late for the evening news. These showed how much Mrs Clinton had worked for and charged Madison Guaranty, the failed Arkansas savings and loan bank at the centre of the Whitewater affair, while a Little Rock lawyer in the 1980s.

Mrs Clinton has stated on oath that she did minimal work for Madison, but the 166 pages of billing records show she had at least 14 meetings or conversations with a Madison executive about one deal that lost the bank $3 million.

The records were subpoenaed two years ago but the White House insisted they had vanished until an aide found them while sorting papers.



President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, showing four-year-old Brandon Denny, a survivor of the Oklahoma bombing, around the White House at the weekend

Clinton gesture opens way to deal on budget

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE American Government resumed full operations yesterday after a surprise breakthrough in top-level White House budget negotiations. But the worst snowstorm to hit the East Coast in years seemed likely to keep most of Washington's federal offices closed for a few more days at least. Even yesterday's budget talks were cancelled.

The breakthrough came late on Saturday when President Clinton suddenly and unexpectedly complied with Republican demands that he provide his own plan to balance the nation's books in seven years using independently approved economic assumptions. The plan — Mr Clinton's fifth in a year — is very different from the far more draconian Republican blueprint for shrinking the Government and achieving a balanced budget by 2002. It is still uncertain whether the two can be melded into a single mutually acceptable Bill, but the President's gesture was enough to persuade the Republicans to fund fully until January 26 a Government that has been partly shut down since December 15.

Last Friday, retreating in the face of intense public pressure, the Republicans had agreed temporarily to reopen the Government, but only with sufficient funds to perform a very limited number of critical functions. Most of the 760,000 affected employees would have sat in their offices with nothing to do.

At a Republican presidential debate in South Carolina on Saturday night, the candidates had bitterly denounced Robert Dole, the Senate leader and clear front-runner for his party's nomination, for orchestrating that retreat. Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, accused him of betraying Republican principles in his eagerness to compromise with Mr Clinton. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee senator, said Mr Dole was a great deal maker, but would lose the White House and cost his party control of Congress in next November's elections.

But Mr Clinton's offer, announced just as the debate began, gave the absent Mr Dole a chance to argue that he has broken the impasse and revived hopes of the Republican Congress and the White House agreeing on America's first genuinely balanced budget in three decades.

Mr Clinton said his plan showed "you can balance the budget in seven years and protect Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment, and provide tax relief to working families". Republicans disagreed, but at least the two sides can now begin serious bargaining.

Mr Clinton would cut $154 billion (about £100 billion) from projected spending on Medicare and Medicaid, the previously sacrosanct health insurance programmes for the elderly and poor, while the Republicans would cut $318 billion. Mr Clinton would cut taxes by $87 billion, the Republicans by $241 billion. He would cut other spending on discretionary domestic programmes by about 25 per cent less than the Republicans.



Dole: denounced by Republican rivals

'Willy' whale begins trip to freedom

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KEIKO, the 2lft killer whale that starred in the hit film *Free Willy*, was winched from his cramped pool in a Mexico City amusement park yesterday on the first stage of his long journey to freedom.

The 17-year-old Orca appeared in the 1993 film about a boy's effort to free a captive whale, and his fans and the Warner Bros studio joined to give him a Hollywood-style happy ending.

In a case of life imitating art, Keiko was being moved to a newly-built salt water tank in Oregon where experts will prepare him for release into the sea. He will be the first killer whale ever returned to the wild.

"The movie ended beautifully, but [Warner Bros] worried that the star was in a facility that did not meet his needs," said David Phillips, director of the Free Willy Foundation set up with a $2 million (£1.29 million) donation from the studio. Keiko was captured off Iceland in 1978 and has spent his life performing stunts at Mexico's Reino Aventura amusement park.

Although the amusement park denies that he is in bad health, Keiko is about a tonne underweight and suffers from a skin irritation which causes cauliflower-like warts. His dorsal fin droops and his teeth are worn from chewing on his concrete pool.

Keiko reached sexual maturity at the age of 15, but the amusement park could not afford a mate. Families stayed up past midnight to watch the 3.5-tonne whale being hoisted out of his pool in a canvas sling and lowered into a metal container, squealing and flapping his fins.

Experts hope that Keiko's new saltwater tank, which is five times larger than his Mexican pool, and a more varied fish diet, will prepare the film star for life in the wild in about a year. However, some conservationists believe that releasing the whale will endanger his life.

Bird conservationist accused of smuggling endangered species

BY JAMES BONE

A BIRD-LOVER since childhood, Tony Silva earned an international reputation as a protector of such rare species as the Blue-throated Conure, the African Grey and the Red-vented Cockatoo.

While still in his twenties, he wrote scholarly monographs on parrots and macaws, became a sought-after speaker, and was appointed head of an aviary on the Canary Islands which houses one of the world's largest collection of rare birds.

Mr Silva, however, now faces charges in Chicago of running an illegal bird-smuggling ring to supply private collectors around the world. If convicted, Mr Silva, 35, faces up to 45 years in jail. His trial had been scheduled for January 16, but has now been delayed while prosecutors consider a plea bargain.

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which mounted a five-year investigation code-named Operation Renegade, Mr Silva smuggled $1.3 million (£830,000) worth of endangered species between 1985 and 1992.

Among the smuggled birds were at least 186 Hyacinth macaws, a species on the verge of extinction. Each bird can fetch up to $15,000.

Prosecutors say Mr Silva worked with his mother, Gila Daoud, 62, and bought illegal birds from an Argentine bird dealer, who mixed them with shipments of legal birds.

Calls for vengeance as hero of Hamas is buried



Mourners in Gaza City crowd round the coffin of Yehia Ayyash, the Hamas bomber killed in an operation by Shin Bet, the Israeli security service

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PROGRESS recently towards peace in the Middle East suffered a severe reversal yesterday. Israel imposed an indefinite ban on Palestinians entering from the occupied territories and halted all joint patrols with the Palestinian police, in an attempt to thwart threatened retaliation for Friday's killing of master-bomber Yehia Ayyash.

"A renewal of suicide attacks against Jewish civilians can only be a matter of time now," said one official as Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to which Ayyash (nicknamed "The Engineer") belonged, declared an end to the self-imposed temporary ban on attacks against Israeli targets which has kept relative calm for four months.

Even ardent Israeli supporters of the fragile peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation were shocked at the hatred and mass support for revenge which was demonstrated at Ayyash's funeral in Gaza on Saturday, attended by more than 100,000 mourners and claimed to be the biggest seen there for years.

"There is blood in our mouths which we want to spit in the face of the unjust world," said Sheikh Nafez Azzam, leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group, speaking at the graveside of the man credited with masterminding suicide bombs which killed more than 50 Jews and wounded at least 250 others.

"This incident will have a very negative impact," said Jamil Hamami, a Hamas spokesman in Jerusalem, as extraordinary precautions were imposed on all forms of Israeli public transport. "The period of calm has been completely blown up."

At least 50,000 workers were prevented from entering Israel from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a move which Israel claimed was vital to try to minimise the liklihood of suicide bombers crossing into the Jewish state to wreak revenge. Many Palestinians said that the economic hardship imposed would only increase support for Islamic groups like Hamas two weeks before the first Palestinian elections, scheduled for January 20.

As Israeli Star of David flags were ritually burnt during Ayyash's chilling funeral procession, a voice from one of the mosque loudspeakers cried "Tell [Shimon] Peres that millions of Yehia Ayyashes will be born", to which the huge crowd answered: "Yes to Iz a-din al-Qassam" — a reference to Hamas's military wing whose members have been instructed to carry out the revenge attacks.

Both among Israelis and Palestinians, the 30-year-old electrical engineering graduate had enjoyed an inflated reputation that had transformed him into an almost legendary figure even before his assassination by 50 grams of explosives concealed in a cellular telephone.

This reputation was enhanced with yesterday's disclosure that, only the day before his killing in an operation by the Israeli security service Shin Bet, the wife of Israel's most wanted terrorist had given birth to a son.

However, Leah Rabin, widow of the assassinated Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who first gave Ayyash the Hebrew nickname meaning "The Engineer", said: "I regret that my husband was unable to see this day."



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Geologists claim to have found Sodom

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

SOME 4,000 years after the destruction of the world's most wicked city, two British geologists are convinced that they have located the site of Sodom on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, rather than the shallow southern part where archaeologists have traditionally placed it. Should the theory, outlined in the *Journal of Engineering Geology*, published by the Geological Society of London, prove true, the biblical city destroyed by fire and brimstone because of the sexual perversion of its inhabitants would be located on what is now the Jordanian east coast of the Dead Sea.

Basing their findings on studies of the lowest point on earth, Graham Harris and Anthony Beardow are convinced that the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is based on geological reality.

"The jigsaw now fits," Mr Harris said. "The biblical story can be rationalised. Instead of something like Atlantis or the old Norse legends, we can show that rational geological thinking corroborates the story." Mr Harris believes that the ruins of Sodom could be lying under the mud and debris "like London after the Blitz" and hints that bodies might be found encased in mud.

According to the geologists' research, an area of the Dead Sea further north that the previously accepted site produced bitumen. Genesis reported that the Vale of Siddim where the sinful cities lay was "full of slimepits", by which they claim was meant "bitumen pits".

The British experts speculate that a large earthquake could have caused an inferno and liquefaction of the bitumen on a scale big enough to have swallowed both Sodom and Gomorrah.

مكنامن الأصل

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

A great Schiele exhibition in Germany, and reports of other top European shows

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



JAZZ

Still tripping nightly: Dr John brings his brand of gumbo to Ronnie Scott's

GIGS: All this week
REVIEW: Wednesday



MUSIC

Joan Rodgers mixes Britten's songs with the Russians in her Wigmore Hall recital

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

Of the people, for the people? Abraham Lincoln is assessed in a new biography

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

PLG YOUNG ARTISTS Another January, another fabulous array of young musical talent goes on show in London, courtesy of the Park Lane Group. The programmes take a strong contemporary music slant and are as eclectic as the ensembles: where else this year are you going to hear a quartet of tubas or a solo marimba recital? For the first time, proceedings will close with some rousing organ music at St John's **Purcell Room**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight-Thurs **St John's**, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) Fri. All at 6pm and 7.30pm

CLASSICS AND NEWCOMERS Dance traditionalists please note that English National Ballet switches from Snow Queen to Swan Queen today with Rudolf Nureyev's magnificent production *Swan Lake* based on the old Bolshoi version. More adventurous spectators can indulge in some international talent-spotting in the Place Theatre's annual young dancers' festival/*Resolution!* series, opening tomorrow **Festival Hall**, South Bank, EC1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight-Sat 7.30pm mat Sat 2.30pm **Place** Duke's Road WC1 (0171-387 0031) Tomorrow-February 17, 8pm

Dutchman, both are fully staged. **Yvonne Arnaud**, Millbrook (01483 440000) Tonight-Thurs, 7.45pm. Fri and Sat, 8pm

LEEDS: Musical festivities continue with **The World Goes 'Round**, a snazzy song and dance tribute to Kander & Ebb, creators of *Cabaret*, *Funny Lady*, *Chicago* and *The Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. Jude Kelly directs **Courtyard**, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quarry Hill (0113-244 2111) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Jan 10 and 17, 2pm and Jan 13, 3pm Until Jan 20

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) **National Gallery** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery** Lure of the Limelight (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Tate** Colin Self, Dynasties. Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8000) **V&A**, Jain Art from India, Back of the Envelope. famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500)

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW The wonderful mix of music, workshops, lectures, masterclasses and ceilidhs that make up **Celtic Connections** is back again for a fun-filled January. Concerts from Barbara Dickson and June Tabor headline today's events, and you can hear Jacqui Ian, Frances Black, Caledon, Kirran Goss and Mary Coughlan through the week. There is even a Cajun week-end from Friday **Booking Royal Concert Hall** (0141-227 5511), **Information** (0141-353 4137) Until Jan 21

GUILDFORD Opera Box brings together singers from the major opera houses around Britain, including Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House, for another season on tour. Mozart's *Don Giovanni* starts the week off, followed by Wagner's *The Flying*

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **BREAK OF DAY** Temperate Wintertale looks at women's lives today, and finds them mostly barren. Max Stafford-Clark's production had met poor reviews but also some enthusiastic. Final week. **Royal Court**, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, *Three Sisters* Sat, 2.30pm

◪ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge **Barbican** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm *Final week*

◪ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage: pro and contra. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **CYRANO** The bittersweet love-story rethought as a battle within the Indian film industry. Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah is a fine hero, and Rajat Bole's jokes are real, but the new conflicts can't match those in the original **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tue Sat, 2.30pm *Final week*

◪ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI** Anastasia Hille plays the beleaguered heroine in Cheek by Jowl's

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Today, 1.30pm

◪ **MACK AND MABEL** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor **Piccadilly**, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **PRIVATES ON PARADE** Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm mat Sat 2.30pm.

□ **RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET** A marvellously mad mix of *The Tempest* with *Great Balls of Fire* and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s. *Final week* **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Tonight-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15) Dull Europudding from Simone de Beavoir's novel about love and immortality, with Irene Jacob and Stephen Rea. Director Ate de Jong. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche **Barbican** (0171-638 8891); **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742); **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 00300) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3566)

THE KINGDOM Breezy medical soap opera made for Danish TV by cult director Lars von Trier **ICA** (0171-930 3647)

◆ **SEVEN** (18) Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director: David Fincher **Barbican** (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15) Julia Roberts as a southern wife losing her husband's infidelity. Talky tale with small pleasures. Lasse Hallstrom directs. Dennis Quaid, Robert Duvall, Kyra Sedgwick, Gena Rowlands **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **BABE** (U) Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan bemoles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean **Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

HEAVY (15) Slow, absorbing American independent film about frustrated lives from writer-director James Mangold. With Pruitt Taylor Vince, Liv Tyler, Deborah Harry **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGM Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG) A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, with Hal Scardino and Litefoot. Director, Frank Oz **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15) Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Overmanic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Haymarket** (01426 915353)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15) Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs. Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

The V&A's new director tells **Simon Tait** a story of high hopes and bitter disillusion

Death by a million cuts

When Virginia Bottomley visits the Victoria and Albert Museum this month she will be confronted by yet another arts crisis. This is a particularly baleful one because, with visitor numbers the highest for ten years, the exhibition programme reinstated in two vast courts, new galleries open and a new director, the museum was on a surge. Bottomley has stopped the surge with a £1 million cut to the V&A's grant for next year, with the same promised for 1997-98.

The cut is a cruel baptism for the Heritage Secretary's host, Alan Borg, who became director just two months ago and suddenly faces a budget deficit of £4 million by 1997. Even before the Budget in November and its public-spending fall-out, he had a £200 million repair programme to finance, the refurbishment of galleries, many of which are, he says, "a disgrace to the standards of a national museum", the launch of a £40 million landmark building project for the millennium and the completion of a multimillion-pound computer network.

Now the vista he will set before Bottomley is bleak as he takes her around the new — largely sponsored — galleries and especially the almost completed Raphael Cartoon Court, which reopens later this year, that mark the V&A's recovery from the last lot of cuts in the mid-1980s. And then the closed ones waiting for money for repairs, and the roofs through which water still pours, and those "appalling" galleries no self-respecting local museum would allow. Of 171 public display rooms, 23 were closed last Wednesday, either for repairs or because of a shortage of warding staff. Borg will not subject Bottomley to the kind of shrill tirade that arts chiefs have been unable to resist in the past, he says. He will let the evidence speak for itself.

There were nice historical coincidences about Borg succeeding Elizabeth Estève-Coll as V&A director. He had taught her art history at Birkbeck College in the 1970s, and she is now Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia, where Borg started his directorial career as the first curator of the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts. But will there be a more melancholy resemblance that he was not bargaining for when he took the job?

One of Estève-Coll's first moves was to get rid of nine department heads, an action which brought international opprobrium from which she never recovered, despite notable subsequent successes with new galleries and the restored exhibitions.

The V&A's current £31.6 million grant is divided simply: 60 per cent for wages and 40 per cent for buildings, so Borg says he has two simple choices for the trustees when they meet on January 18, a choice of evils: cut staff or cut building maintenance. The immediate action will probably be a freeze on vacancies and the maintenance programme before more drastic measures are taken.

TONY WHITE



Busted flush: Alan Borg has serious financial headaches as a result of cuts to the museum's annual grant

When the new director began, he lifted the V&A's depressed mood immediately by removing a layer of administration in his first week — without firing anyone — and not only opening the director's door but stepping through it for weekly visits to museum sections to discuss both their problems and plans and his own.

He is anxious not to shoot down raised morale by cutting jobs, but he might not have a choice. "I could go to the curators and ask if they could manage without certain posts, and I've no doubt they would say yes but that the jobs would not get done," he says. "There are areas where we need more staff, not fewer, to complete the tasks we have."

> ‘Charging for entrance is not the solution to our funding problems’

Borg introduced admission charges at the Imperial War Museum, and when he was appointed to run the V&A, he was widely expected to introduce admission charges immediately, a move which his predecessors had fought shy of in the face of opposition from a powerful group of anti-charging trustees.

In the mid-1980s Roy Strong had compromised by instituting "voluntary admission donations", and with the trustees unable to agree on obligatory charging, they have remained.

"Voluntary donations don't work," Borg says bluntly. "The museum claims to have made £1 million a year out of voluntary donations, but the Imperial War Museum and its branches all charge, have slightly fewer visitors than the V&A and make £4 million."

His casual remark in a magazine article that most of the sort of people who visit the V&A could afford to pay £10 to get in was construed by the *Independent* as a statement of intent, which he quickly denied. "Charging may be an option but it is not the solution to our funding problems," he says. "This is a subject we need to debate in a rational fashion, and the *Independent* story took my remark out of context in a way which didn't help the debate."

He is anxious that any cuts should not affect the public — "If you come from overseas and find the galleries you want to visit closed, it's bitterly disappointing and this museum is doing a rotten job" — but the public will inevitably feel the effects.

Exhibitions, once the glory of the V&A and restored by Estève-Coll, will be hit. The William Morris blockbuster in the summer is fully sponsored and will go ahead, but Borg's programme of Modern Age exhibitions, designed to reflect the 20th century and foreshadow the 21st, is a likely victim.

The roof over one of the two large exhibition areas, the North Court, is in a bad way; it will be surveyed after the Morris show and, if closure is ordered as a result, with no money to carry out the work the exhibition programme will be curtailed further.

One of the worst sections of roof covers one of the most popular galleries, the Sculpture Court, and a current survey is almost certain to recommend immediate closure, which will be indefinite because the gallery itself is long overdue for refurbishment and there is not the money for either task.

"I hoped that we had made an argument for the V&A being seen as a special case, with our new galleries, our performance with the public and the needs of this old building, but it seems we failed," Borg says.

"Museums are a soft target because we are not producing anything. If we were the car industry, the cuts would have obvious immediate effects on the economy. As it is, the cuts will take a little longer to be evident, but they will be equally disastrous."

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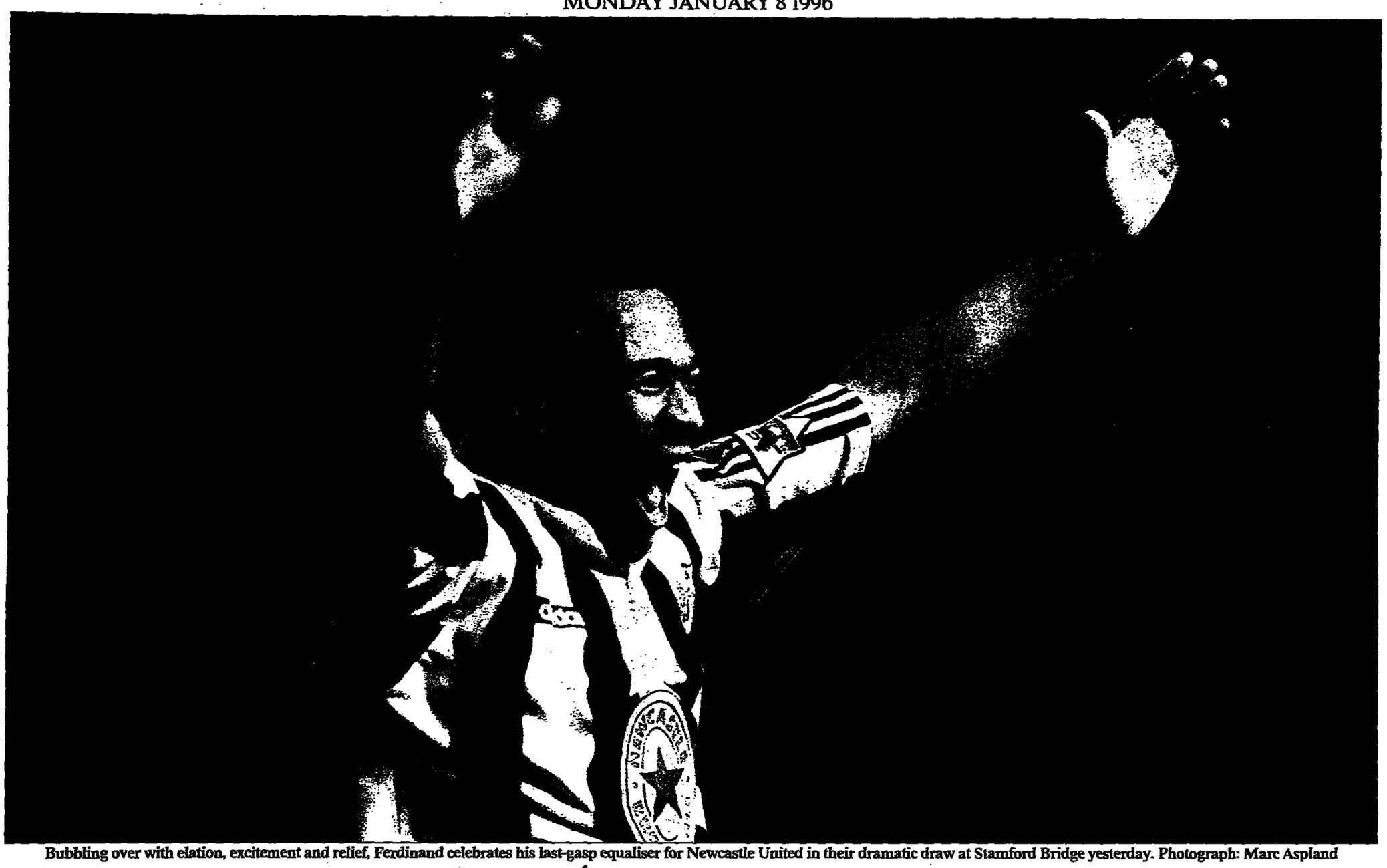
SPORT FOR ALL



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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996



Bubbling over with elation, excitement and relief, Ferdinand celebrates his last-gasp equaliser for Newcastle United in their dramatic draw at Stamford Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Injury-time equaliser saves Newcastle at Stamford Bridge

Ferdinand stages great escape

Chelsea 1
Newcastle United 1

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE stopwatch yesterday condemned Chelsea to an FA Cup replay at Fortress St James' Park, Newcastle. On the run of play at Stamford Bridge, it was a travesty, but, in time added on for injuries — indeed, time for what the referee, Stephen Lodge, may well have deemed to be feigning injury — Les Ferdinand struck his 23rd goal in 26 appearances for Newcastle. Preying on a dreadful error by the Russian goalkeeper, Dmitri Kharine, a Londoner had thus saved the game and spared Newcastle becoming only the second FA Carling Premiership side to go out of the Cup on the weekend of the third-round ties.

It had come out of the blue. Time was running against Newcastle, the crowd — 6,000 short of a full house, such are the prohibitive prices at Stamford Bridge so soon after Christmas — had stopped singing their *Flying the Blue Flag* song and, under Newcastle's late, high-ball onslaught, had maintained a shrill, pleading whistling. Yet the one whistle that counted, that of the referee, was silent as, in the third minute added on for time-wasting and injuries, Ferdinand saved the game.

Such cruel return for Chelsea. In the first half, in particular, with Wise buzzing around the midfield, floating here and stinging there, Chelsea were vivacious. They are so much more practised at playing with a Continental formation. Newcastle do not really trust it and, having tried it in the first half, Kevin Keegan, their manager, dispensed with it as soon as he could at the interval, pushing Albert, one of three centre backs, into midfield and reshaping his forces into 4-4-2.

Newcastle were especially unable to shape the game on the right, where they emphatically lack the wing play of the injured Gillespie, a loss that may yet halt their championship flow. Without him, Barton was an isolated figure, trying to be full back, wing back and winger without assistance down the flank. Wise was looking for the space around Barton, looking for Phelan, the Chelsea left back.

Significantly, almost predictably, it was a move that flowed from Wise to Phelan and then to Hughes that prised open Newcastle's defence. Wise had lured Barton infield, invited his tackle and then skipped impishly away, releasing the ball judiciously down the flank for Phelan as he did so. Phelan, when fit, has the speed of a whippet and, for once, his accuracy with the cross was sweet. Nevertheless, Hughes, so fresh and alert after benefiting from a two-match suspension while others laboured through the Christmas programme, had much work to do. He jogged forward two yards, stopped, moved backwards by the same distance and thus eluded Albert, making enough time and room for himself to rise unmolested and unmarked and head the goal.

There had been little of the dynamism of Newcastle. Beardsley had begun tenaciously, had even tried to mix it physically in the battle of the bantams with Wise, but, just before half-time, better suited to using his craft than wasting his energy, he produced a first-time pass towards Albert. The tall, guardsman-like Belgian needed one touch to bring the ball down and a second with his left foot to smite the ball with awesome power. It beat Kharine comprehensively, but rebounded mockingly off the goalkeeper's right-hand post.

Chelsea, as they had after dominating the first half against Liverpool a week ago, then allowed the opposition to come back at them. There is a streak of ultra-defensiveness, of stubbornness, about Chelsea that shows why their run of only one defeat in ten matches includes five draws. They do not finish off sides and Hughes, for all his energy and all his movement off the ball, was twice guilty of spurning chances. First, off balance to a splendid through-ball from the eye-catching Duberry, he shot into the side-netting. Then, from an almost equal position, Hughes greedily tried to score, ignoring the positioning of Phelan, and again missed the target.

By now, Newcastle's discomfort was registered in the referee's handwriting — Barton, Howey, Lee and Elliott were all justifiably booked for fouls, two of them in the efforts to subdue Wise — yet, as Chelsea seemed intent on absorbing the pressure, the tension mounted.

Nobody, however, anticipated the denouement. It came after 93 minutes on the clock. Kharine, ineptly, hit a goal kick flat and straight to the head of Albert.

"As soon as I saw the ball hit Phillipe's head, I turned and started running for goal," Ferdinand said. "You never stop chasing a game, never stop plugging away until the end, and when I saw the goalkeeper come, then stop, I saw my chance." A flicker of Ferdinand's left boot and the ball was rolled between the legs of the hapless keeper.

Afterwards, Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, was in the referee's room, asking — he says calmly — whether the official's watch had stopped. Keegan was breathing relief.

"My team lacked passion in the first half," he admitted. "I told them at half-time you've always got to have this in the Cup, you've got to have it in the league, you've got to have it in *life*."

But he knew that this had been a great escape, just as Hoddle — now back in his own dressing-room trying "to pick up these boys, they are destroyed" — knew that the glory has possibly passed. In their last match, at Queens Park Rangers, who now await the winner of the replay, Chelsea had won in the last seconds on the watch.

Now they were denied and for those who pointed in the dressing room to Kharine's error, Hoddle countered: "In the last seven games, we've made mistakes in front of the opponents' goal. Today, we made at least two mistakes up there, a professional should know when he has erred."

Indeed, and Hughes, lamenting the added time, should examine how the exaggerated way he lay down, allowed himself to be carried off on a stretcher and then jumped up to rejoin the play, may have invited the unwelcome end.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): D Kharine — M Duberry, D Lee, A Myers — D Petrescu (sub: S Clarke, 57min), E Newton, D Wise, J Spence, T Phelan — P Furlong, M Hughes. NEWCASTLE UNITED (5-3-2): P Srnicek — W Barton, D Peacock, S Howey, P Albert, R Elliott — P Beardsley, R Lee (sub: L Clark, 46), D Ginola — P Kitson, L Ferdinand.
Referee: S Lodge.

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FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW



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TODAY

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Scrum for possession enhances rugby's appearance



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

The contract for televising the rugby union five *nations' championship* from 1998 is circulating broadcasting's corridors of power and already the signs are that the BBC will not be dancing in the streets of Shepherds Bush.

Favourite to land it is Sky Sports, but the satellite channel could yet be dispossessed — either by a late tackle from the Prime Minister or by a counter-offer from a revitalised ITV Sport, still basking in the success of acquiring both Formula One grand prix motor racing and the FA Cup Final.

More by luck than design, the pretenders to the five nations' crown had their biggest games of the season at the weekend and while it would be foolish to say that either channel's coverage held any clues to greater ambitions, they both confirmed one encouraging thing: that club rugby, if only at the top level, is capable of providing very good television indeed.

Yesterday, ITV Sport brought us the first Heineken Cup final, the European tournament that seems to be over almost before, at least in television terms, it has begun. Having ridden its meteorological luck last weekend with live coverage of the semi-finals, that coincided with the entire domestic programme being wiped out, ITV's good fortune continued with a thrilling final between Cardiff and Toulouse that went right down to the last penalty kick.

These days a year is a long time in rugby union but if next year's final does not include either Bath or Leicester then the semi-finals surely will. This year, however, the two sides were slogging it out it out live on Sky Sports 2 on Saturday afternoon. Not only was it cracking television, but crucially, Leicester's one-point victory ensured that the Courage Clubs Championship race is not yet over for the season.

If the Heineken Cup has come a year too early for English and Scottish teams, then it is a year too late for Alastair Hignell, the ITV anchorman who had such an unhappy time of it during the World Cup in South Africa.

Back in June, I wrote that what Hignell lacked as a presenter was the "familiarity factor", a quality that comes only with match practice. This championship has been the ideal match practice and Hignell already looks a much happier man. It was not his fault that the ITV cameras occasionally had trouble keeping up with the ball or that the director seemed to have a strange aversion to positioning a camera behind the posts for penalty kicks.

On Sky, Stuart Barnes also had problems with presentation last season. The satellite channel's response has been to bring in the experienced David Bobin as anchor, leaving Barnes to do what he does best — talking tactics and dishing out the analytical abuse. Earlier in the season, I thought Bobin looked too smooth by half — more at home in the 19th hole than a rugby club. But he has roughed it up just a tad and now does a first-class job of interviewing studio guests (Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, and Brian Ashton, of Bath) and bringing Barnes into the sort of pre- and post-match conversations for which only the satellite channel has time.

By contrast, ITV has so little time for chat, you wonder why it invites studio guest at all. At least for yesterday's final, it resisted the usual temptation of arriving mob-handed with former internationals and fielded only two — Peter Wheeler (again) and Gareth Davies, of Cardiff.

With Hignell asking the questions and John Taylor and Steve Smith in the commentary box, the ITV team looked even longer in the tooth than Cardiff's threequarter line. Given the bold *ambitions* that the channel, and indeed the rugby authorities, nurse for the tournament, one present international should have been a pre-requisite. Ieuan Evans and Will Carling would have been top of my list.

McLeish in danger of running out of sympathy at Fir Park

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

THE lower end of the Bell's Scottish League premier division is a shabby neighbourhood and the football clubs who find themselves there feel dispossessed. Motherwell supporters may have a particular inclination to grumble. For them, it is as if they have been evicted after father lost the family mansion in a poker game.

Last season, a sustained stylishness made Motherwell runners-up in the premier division and proud owners of a Uefa Cup place. His more bitter critics will argue that Alex McLeish, if not a reckless gambler, has been prone to misguided speculation that has seen Motherwell's lost prosperity.

Of course, the idea that the club has appointed a calamity as its manager is far-fetched. It was, after all, McLeish, in his first season in the post, who steered Motherwell to that satisfying second place. He did so with the team that he had inherited from Tommy McLean, his predecessor as manager, but nobody can seriously claim that McLeish alone has infected Fir Park with failure since then.

The club has long been prone to ill-health because its location, in a town hit by the decline of the steel industry and far too close to Glasgow, makes it vulnerable. The occasional success is a respite from the struggle. McLean was a formidable manager at Motherwell and brought the club the Scottish Cup in 1991, but even he was not spared the times of dread.

Motherwell, after a 1-0 defeat away to Celtic on Saturday, are in ninth position, but the surroundings should not feel so very strange. In 1992, they finished eighth. Near the beginning of McLean's tenure, when he was just beginning to restore a club that he had taken over in ruined condition, Motherwell should even have been relegated.

In 1986, the premier division was instead expanded to save them. Then, it was whispered that Motherwell, had they gone out of the top flight, would also have gone out of business. Subsequent seasons, though, saw McLean marshall the Fir Park club with extraordinary shrewdness.

THIRD ROUND

Berwick Rangers or Arman Athletic v Dundee United; Caledonian Thistle v Spartans or East Fife; Clyde or Brechin v Dundee; Clydebank v Stirling Albion; Deveronvale or Keith v Rangers; Dumbarton v Airdrieonians; Dunfermline v St Mirren; Falkirk v Stenhousemuir; Greenock Morton v Montrose; Hamilton v St Johnstone; Heart of Midlothian v Partick Thistle; Hibernian v Kilmarnock; Motherwell v Aberdeen; Raith Rovers v Queens Park; Ross County v Forfar; Whitehill Welfare or Fraserburgh v Celtic

Ties to be played on January 27

McLeish, in his first managerial appointment, must try to duplicate McLean's remarkable exploits. There is, all the same, a limited amount of sympathy available to the present manager. He has, by Motherwell's standards, spent heavily, getting through most of the £1.75 million raised by the sale of Phil O'Donnell to Celtic last season.

None of the newcomers, however, has made a great impact. In fairness, Motherwell have been hampered by serious injuries, but, against Celtic, when the team was only two or three players short of full-strength, the impression of sickness still prevailed. Nor did the third round draw for the Scottish Cup, made in the evening, promise a tonic. Aberdeen will be menacing visitors to Fir Park.

McLeish will have to find a way of implanting conviction in this team, because Motherwell's relegation looks entirely feasible at present and no manager can ever avoid the blame for such failure. Slight consolation lies in the fact that Falkirk, 4-0 losers to Rangers on Saturday, have contrived to be marginally worse.

Two goals from Ally McCoist at Brockville brought him level with Bob McPhail's Scottish League record of 230 for the Ibrox club. Despite such lofty statistics, though, not even Rangers are spared a brush with gritty reality. They have been drawn away to Keith or Deveronvale in the Scottish Cup, Celtic travel to Fraserburgh or Whitehill Welfare.

Rodber omitted for visit to France

England launch Sleightholme on wing and a prayer

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will make the gambler's throw when they play France in Paris on January 20, the opening day of the rugby union five nations' championship. Not content with restlessly shifting their back row yet again, they will introduce Jon Sleightholme to the wing after a mere four league games for Bath this season.

Four times in four matches the back row has changed emphasis: this time Tim Rodber, ever present in England's past 18 matches (even when not selected, he appeared as a replacement against Western Samoa during the World Cup), gives way to Steve Ojomoh, who will win his eleventh cap at blind-side flanker.

But the omission of Rodber comes as less of a surprise than the inclusion of Sleightholme, whose debut will come against one of the trickiest and most experienced of players, Philippe Saint-André, the France captain. At 23, Sleightholme has served his apprenticeship with England colts, under-21 and A teams but his inability to hold down a place in Bath's senior side this season graphically illustrates the gamble England have taken.

"We decided to put an out-and-out right wing in the No 14 shirt," Jack Rowell, the England manager, said yesterday, echoing a comment he made earlier this season in respect of the No 7 jersey. The search for a specialist open-side flanker restored Andy Robinson to the international stage for all of one match and one can only hope that Sleightholme lasts longer: even Rowell confessed that James Naylor, the Orrell wing, would have been considered had he been fit and the manager regretted the absence through injury of the experienced duo, Tony Underwood and Ian Hunter.

Sleightholme replaces Damian Hopley, who was himself playing out of position at England's behest. Normally a centre, Hopley received few opportunities during the lacklustre displays against South Africa and Western Samoa two months ago but might have expected longer to bed down in the position. That opportunity will be granted instead to Sleightholme, given that Rowell hopes his chosen XV will go through the championship.

The Yorkshireman, who arrived at Bath in September 1994 after a glittering career with Hull Ionians and Wakefield, was watched by Mike Slemen — who should know wing play if anyone does — at Bath on Saturday, though he received little chance to impress in rain-swept defeat against Leicester.

Rodber's doom was sealed even before his premature departure with a twisted knee and ankle during Northampton's victory against Nottingham on Saturday. "If Rodber had been in form we would not have changed the back row," Rowell said, "but regretfully he has been off-key for a while. We have done our best, but his loss of form has continued through several games going back to the World Cup. We have talked to his coach at Northampton, Ian McGeechan, and Tim himself about this. Unfortunately, the corner has not been turned."

In the light of such comments Hopley might reasonably have hoped for the same long-term consideration, but the addition of Ojomoh, while justified on sound league form, does not answer the absence of a focal point among the England forwards. Tony Russ, the Leicester director of rugby, put it into words over the weekend: "There is no one in there [the England pack] who ties the forwards together and gives them focus," he said.

"You need a workhorse and, while Dean Richards is so far out of the squad that his return is not to be contemplated, I would have him in my side every time — if England are to play to their strengths." England will go to Paris as champions of Europe from last season but so much water has passed under the bridge since last March that, for the first time in several years, they will go there as underdogs.

TEAM

M J Catt (Bath), J M Sleightholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Harlequins, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF), P J Grayson (Northampton), M J S Dawson (Northampton), G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Bristol), J Leonard (Harlequins), S O Ojomoh (Bath), M O Johnson (Leicester), M C Bayfield (Northampton), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), B B Clarke (Bath) Replacements: J E B Callard (Bath), P R de Glanville (Bath), K P P Bracken (Bristol), R G A Dawe (Bath), V E Ubogu (Bath), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)

IAN STEWART



Cazalbou break through a despairing tackle by Lewis to notch the second try for the French champions

Cardiff bow to superior skills

Cardiff 18
Toulouse 21
(aet; 15-15 at 80min)

BY DAVID HANDS

THE inaugural European club tournament received, almost to the last detail, the final it deserved at the National Stadium, Cardiff, yesterday. If ultimately the game lacked the sustained brilliance that its opening quarter promised, it offered excitement, skill and a deserved French victor, setting a standard for future finals to live up to.

Toulouse have long fought for the European dimension to club rugby in the northern hemisphere and there was, therefore, an element of justice when, in the final minute of extra time, Christophe Deylaud kicked the penalty which won a taut match.

Toulouse had threatened to sweep Cardiff away in the first minutes of a game played, mercifully, in remarkably good conditions. Their speed of thought and ability to break the first line of Welsh defence made it all the more incomprehensible when Deylaud retreated into kicking mode as the match wore on — and not very efficient kicking mode at that. Guy Noves, the Toulouse coach, attributed that to Cardiff's strength at lineout and maul, but for much of the match the French champions overcame the height of Jones and had ample possession with which to attack, ball in hand, which is their traditional game. They chose, instead, to seek field position and Cardiff, solidly efficient, could cope with that.

Cardiff had to drag themselves back into the final through the accuracy of Adrian Davies's goalkicking after being rocked back on their heels in the sixth and tenth minutes. First Ougier paved the way for a splendid try by Castaignede, who subsequently provided the scoring pass for Cazalbou. Both tries featured timing of the pass and overall pace which Cardiff could not match.

Bath falter 29

"It's a couple of notches up on the Heineken League," Davies said. "It's not the intensity or the tackling but the skill element and the speed element. Not many situations arise in the league where we can't convert pressure into points. But we couldn't against Toulouse."

That, of course, is what British sides seek from European competitions — higher standards. To that end, representatives of clubs from England, Wales, were united in their opinion that Cardiff rivalled the best clubs in France. But more, one suspects, by the rigour of their play — as in football, the difference is the work ethic as against pure skill. Yet there is a valid place for both and Cardiff, favoured by the referee's whistle, demonstrated to a 20,000 crowd that Welsh players can live with the best — in Europe anyway.

But for some rushes of blood, notably by Berty when he had opened up the defence, Toulouse might have extended their initial 12-point advantage. Yet Davies nibbled away with two penalties before the interval, when the crowd greeted with glee the replacement of Ring by Jonathan Davies. But the old hero could produce no magic in rugby union's new era. Castaignède rammed over a long dropped goal but Adrian Davies kept his side in touch. As the clock ran down Hall nearly did more. For the first time he found space, chipped over Ougier and came desperately close to a try. Instead, Cardiff settled for a penalty and, with the final kick of proper time from 43 metres, Adrian Davies levelled the scores.

But Toulouse dominated extra time. Deylaud kicked a simple penalty in the first period. Davies responded and, for the third time in the match, the Cardiff forwards made the running only for the advantage to be lost in midfield. Castel carried Toulouse back to the danger zone and, less than 20 metres from their own posts, Cardiff offended at a ruck. At that range Deylaud, the silver trophy gleaming in his eyes, could not miss.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Penalty goals: A Davies (5) Toulouse: Tries: Castaignède, Cazalbou. Conversion: Deylaud. Penalty goals: Deylaud (2) Dropped goal: Castaignède

CARDIFF: M Rayer; S Ford, M Hall, M Ring, S Hill, A Davies; A Moore, A Lewis, J Humphreys, L Mustoe, E Lewis, J Wakeford, D Jones. G Williams, H Taylor. Ring replaced by J Davies (40min) Ford replaced by N Walker (56)

TOULOUSE: S Ougier, E N'Tamack, P Carbonneau, T Castaignede, D Berty, C Deylaud, J Cazalbou, C Califano, P Soula, C Portolan, D Lacroix, H Miorin, F Belot, H Manent, S Dispagne. Lacroix replaced by R Castel, 59min). Berty replaced by U Mola (70) Castaignede replaced by E Artiguste (83). C Guiter temporary replacement for Soula (21-26)

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland)

Another player of consequence rolls off Bath production line

Peter Bills on the young Yorkshireman elevated to England's ranks for Paris

ACCLAIMING new rugby internationals might seem routine to the citizens of Bath, given the quality of personnel at their celebrated club, but the sight of a pyjama-clad young lady rushing into the streets of the spa town yesterday morning, to share with Jon Sleightholme his call-up for the England side in Paris, illustrated the surprising nature of Jack Rowell's decision.

Sleightholme freely concedes that he was as astonished as his girlfriend, Judy, at the news of his selection. "I haven't come down off the ceiling yet," the wing said. "You take part in squads and A team tours and matches, but, when it comes to the real thing, nothing can prepare you for the sheer elation of the moment."

Born in North Malton in Yorkshire, Sleightholme joined Bath from Wakefield after spells with the junior clubs, Grimsby and Hull Ionians. At 5ft 10in and 14st, he was known as a pacy runner, but large question marks loomed over his abilities in defence, and for much of his first 12 months at Bath that weakness was emphasised by opponents. However, on the England A tour of Australia last summer, he worked closely with Mike Slemen, the former England and British Lions left wing, to iron out those deficiencies.

"On a tour like that, you have the time and opportunity to learn," Sleightholme said. "It's not only what you do on the training ground and in matches, but the discussions you have off the field. I learnt a lot from 'Slem' on that tour just by listening to what he said. I knew I had to work on the defensive side of my game, but believe I have now improved considerably."

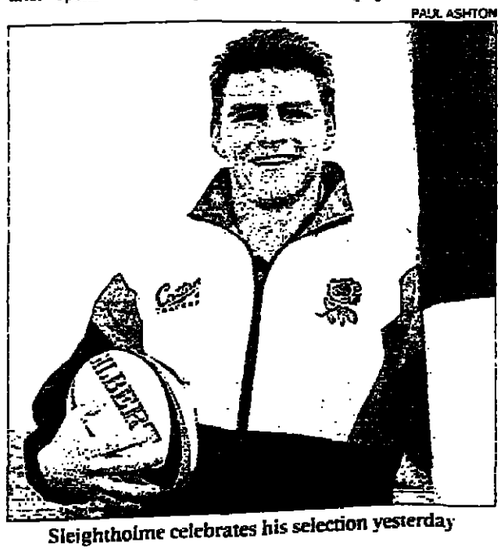
Sleightholme, a teacher of physical education and general studies at Culverhays School in Bath, moved to English's top club for the challenge. At times, the competition for first-team places — he can play on either wing, but prefers the right — has been too much for him.

He admits his frustration at not yet securing a regular place with Bath, but his pedigree, for England Under-19 and Under-21, England Students and England A, marked him out as a player of consequence. Even the glitziest players have to prove themselves at Bath, a fact that Sleightholme has come to accept in his struggle for recognition.

"It is such a good club to be with because the standards to which they aspire elevate everyone's game," he said. "They are constantly moving forward, not standing still. This club won't let you rest on your laurels as individuals, on or off the field. They are always asking questions of you as a player and as a person. That has helped me to develop."

Perhaps the French are suitable first senior international opponents for Sleightholme, a wing who used Patrice Lagisquet, the French flyer, as his role model. "I played with him for the Barbarians at Leicester a few seasons ago and was hugely impressed," he said. If he performs his defensive duties in Paris as well as he can attack, England may have found a wing for all seasons.

PAUL ASHTON



Sleightholme celebrates his selection yesterday

Cup's future spills over with promise



DAVID MILLER

At the National Stadium

Rugby is often a paradox emotionally combustible and aggressive, yet predominantly retaining a sense of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and acceptance of the referee's judgment. We saw both faces in the first Heineken Cup final yesterday.

There were times when the match between Cardiff and Toulouse threatened to become another Guy Fawkes event, the instinctive temperamental reaction of both sides, especially the French, suggesting imminent mayhem. It is by no means pessimistic to forecast that in the event of club rugby becoming truly international, there will be *European Cup ties that require not one, but three referees.* It cannot be otherwise, given the physical nature of the game, and once the money, prestige, and expectation become too extreme for players' natural self-control.

Yet at the finish yesterday, there were the adversaries exchanging congratulations and condolences in a manner seldom seen at the climax of professional football. Long may rugby retain this.

It is the difference between peoples, in style, skill, and character, that gives international competition it's appeal, as well as base nationalism. For this reason, this competition is bound to prosper. Bath v Perpignan cannot fail to carry more appeal than Bath v Wasps.

There is no cause to say that the birth of the European Cup is any less auspicious than that in football 40 years ago. *There is no conspicuous difference from when Real Madrid defeated Rheims 4-3 in Paris in 1956.* The crowd was 38,000, compared with 22,000 yesterday ... and the English were absentees from the competition, thanks to such Football League luminaries as its president, Joe Richards, a Barnsley coal merchant, who thought the cup unimportant and a distraction from domestic priorities.

Joe Mears, the mild-mannered Chelsea chairman, accepted exclusion, but not, the next season. Matt Busby and Manchester United. English and Scottish clubs are scheduled to join rugby's innovation next season. It is likely to be little time before Italians, Romanians, Russians, and others to seek to join them.

Football's European Cup, of course, was the pinnacle of a far broader base of professional leagues — though it sprang from the same narrow-mindedness that allows English rugby to suppose it is almost the best in the world. When Wolverhampton Wanderers beat Honved in a floodlit match in 1954, the *Daily Express* proclaimed: "World Champions". *L'Equipe*, the French sports paper, thought they should show the English the truth.

For better or worse, professionalism in rugby will concentrate the best players among a minority of clubs, so the quality of the new cup should provide some spectacular entertainment, without necessarily being either as exceptional as Real Madrid against Eintracht Frankfurt or as dull as Nottingham Forest against Hamburg.

The final yesterday ultimately produced the right conclusion. In the first 15 minutes, the champions of Wales were no match for the imaginative back play of the champions of France. The intervention of Ougier, the Toulouse full back, in the creation of the first try was perhaps the highlight of the afternoon, though Castaignède's sprint to produce the second try was barely less electric.

At this point it seemed that ponderous Welsh tackling was likely to see the result out of range by half-time, but Adrian Davies's five penalties forced extra time, Castaignède having increased Toulouse's total with a casual, almost perfectly dropped goal from more than 45 yards.

It seemed Cardiff's robust pack would now win the day, but justice was done when Deylaud's penalty in the last minute proved decisive.

Fifteen replays give fourth round draw confused look

By Russell Kempson

MANY ifs and buts remain, with 15 third-round replays to be staged, but the FA Cup fourth round draw produced an appropriate reward for Les Ferdinand, the goalscoring saviour of Newcastle United yesterday. If Newcastle overcome Chelsea at the second attempt, they will travel to Queens Park Rangers, where Ferdinand spent nine seasons.

Newcastle, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, owe their continued involvement in the competition to rather more luck than judgment and also the sharp-finishing prowess of the England forward, who moved to St James' Park for £6 million in June last year. Trailing 1-0 at Stamford Bridge, and with the game deep into time added on for stoppages, he scored his 23rd goal of the season to force a rematch.

Though relieved at receiving another chance, Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, was none too enamoured about the possibility of a return to the capital. His side also play Arsenal in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter finals at Highbury on Wednesday.

"I think we'll have to set up a base in London," he said. "With a minute to go against Chelsea, the fourth round seemed a long way away for us. It looked as if our only way of getting to Wembley would be in the Coca-Cola Cup."

A Newcastle trip to Loftus Road, or the short hop for Chelsea, could be one of five all-Premiership ties. Bolton Wanderers take on Leeds United, with Leeds having won a league fixture 2-0 at Burnden Park only 12 days ago, while Arsenal — a win over Sheffield United pending — would host Aston Villa in north London.

If Manchester City overcome Leicester City, they will meet Coventry City at Highfield Road, and if Wimbledon dispose of Watford, they will head north to meet Middlesbrough.

Neither match provides particularly mouth-watering prospects and yet, with only one representative from the Endsleigh Insurance League third division and none from the non-League bretheren in the last-32 draw, many of the traditional oohs and aahs were missing when the balls were plucked from the bag by Nat Lofthouse and Tom Finney at Lancaster Gate yesterday.

Liverpool were swiftly installed as 4-1 favourites to win the Cup — with Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspur joint second-favourites at 6-1 — after they were paired with either Fulham, flag-bearers for the third division, or Shrewsbury Town. It should be another opportunity for Ian Rush to add to his tally of Cup goals.

His solitary strike against Rochdale created a new modern-day record of 42, surpassing the previous total set by Denis Law. "I'd like to get to 50 now and reach a level that no one will overtake," Rush said. "What with getting the MBE in the New Year Honours list, it has been a tremendous week for me."

In a third round relatively devoid of any cataclysmic upset, though Hereford United's 1-1 draw with Tottenham qualified as the best near-miss, Charlton Athletic and Brentford took most of the plaudits. Charlton beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-0 — giving Wednesday the dubious privilege of being the only Premiership side to disappear thus far — while Brentford won 2-1 at Norwich City. The victors now play each other.

"I'm just pleased we've been drawn at home and we'll have another sell-out crowd at The Valley," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "We're playing well at the moment but there'll be no complacency."

Manchester United will hardly be complacent, either, after escaping with a 2-2 draw against Sunderland at Old Trafford. The winners from their next tussle, at Roker Park, will play Reading.

Everton, the holders, still have to bypass Stockport County before entertaining ideas of playing Crystal Palace or Port Vale. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, was so dismayed at the 2-2 draw with Stockport yesterday that he refused to contemplate anything further than the replay at Edgeley Park. However, he should not be too downhearted. Everton outrageously survived a one-sided tie at Bristol City last season and went on to lift the Cup.

FA CUP

Full draw	21
Generous Ferguson	24
Gallant Hereford	25
Rush's record	26

REPLAY DATES

7.45 unless stated

Tuesday, January 16

Blackburn Rovers v Ipswich Town, Oldham Athletic v Barnsley, Oxford United v Millwall, Port Vale v Crystal Palace, Sheffield United v Arsenal, Shrewsbury v Fulham (7.30)

Wednesday, January 17

Manchester City v Leicester City, Newcastle United v Chelsea, Nottingham Forest v Stoke City, Stockport County v Everton (7.30); Sunderland v Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur v Hereford United, Wimbledon v Watford, Wolverhampton Wanderers v Birmingham City.

Leeds strike twice in injury time as underdogs suffer rough justice

Fates frown on Derby in cruellest of defeats

Derby County	2
Leeds United	4

By Peter Ball

THE FA Cup is littered with hard luck stories, but few can rival Derby County's yesterday. Reduced to ten men after half an hour, they briefly led by two goals and, although that advantage was quickly swept way, they were hanging on for a deserved draw until Leeds United scored twice deep into injury time.

"It was very unkind that we didn't get a draw," Jim Smith the Derby manager, said afterwards. Unkind is an understatement. By the half-hour, his team had lost two of their three centre halves, Stimac limping away shortly before Rowett was sent off.

By the time that Leeds at last edged in front, in the 92nd minute, Yates, one of the outstanding figures in Derby's resistance, had been reduced to a limping passenger. To lose so cruelly was far less than they deserved.

With their terrible record in the competition, Leeds, however, were willing to accept the victory any way it came. They have gone past the fourth round only three times in the past 20 years and, for a time yesterday, their inept, sometimes sullen display suggested that they were unlikely to improve that record this year.

Leeds revealed their hand before the game, leaving out Tomas Brolin, their £4.5 million signing from Parma. Instead of Swedish skill, Howard Wilkinson, their manager, decided to play a team of battlers.

"I think I was proved right by the sort of match it was," Wilkinson said. "In the conditions, at that tempo and in that heated atmosphere, I picked a team to win a football match."

Games between Derby and Leeds went bad in the early Seventies when Brian Clough and Don Revie traded insults and their teams and supporters traded kicks and punches. At that time, Smith and Wilkinson were working together at Boston United and their friendship endures, but the hostility between the clubs also remains and there was a brooding, hostile atmosphere hanging over the Baseball Ground yesterday.

Whether that made Wilkinson right is a moot point. Leeds had offered nothing to reveal that they were a side from the FA Carling Premiership until after half-time; by then, Stimac had limped away after a clash with Deane and Rowett had been sent off, perhaps unjustly, for pulling down the same player.

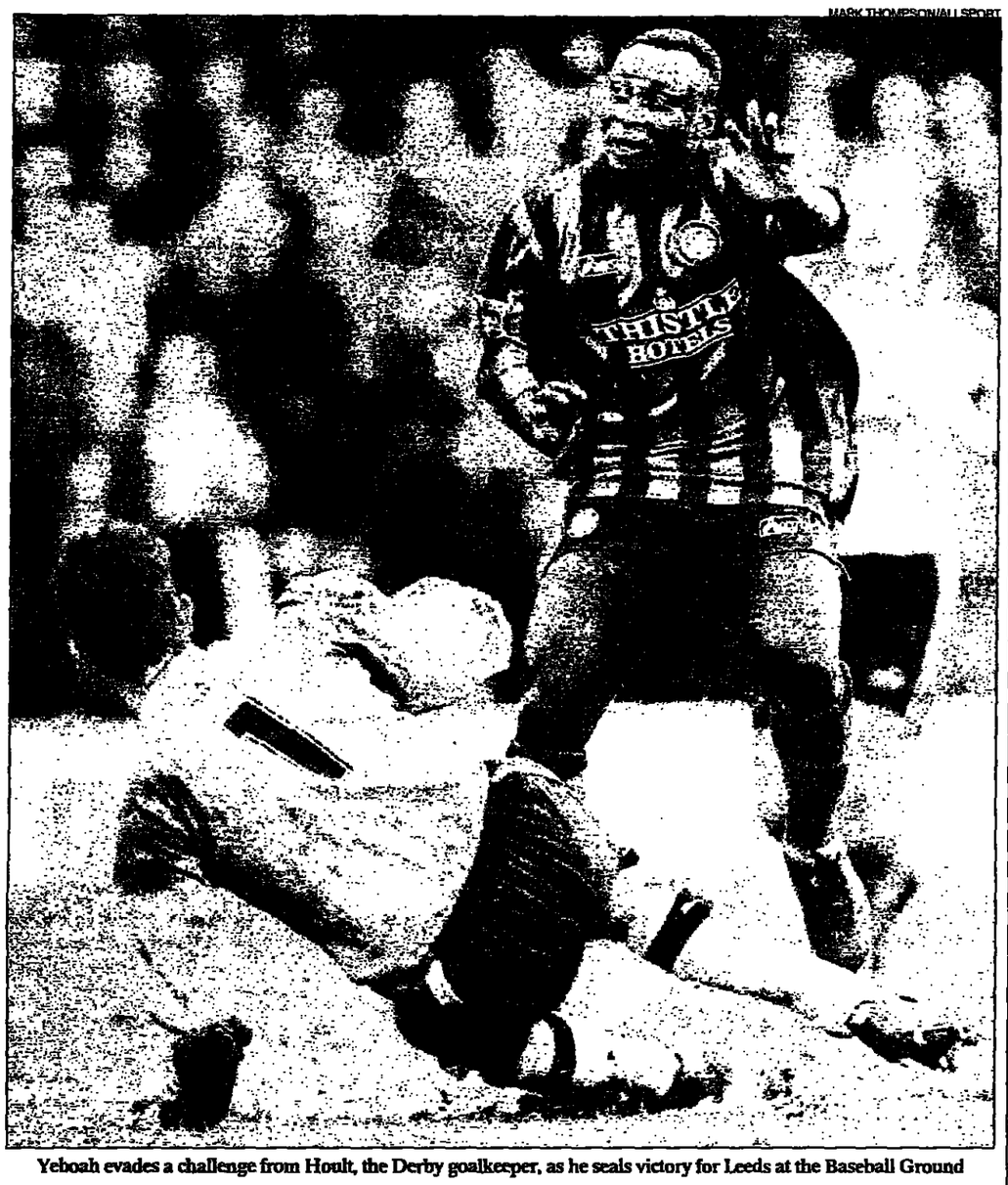
Yet Derby made fight of such handicaps as they reorganised. Van der Laan moved back to play resolutely alongside Yates and Kavanagh in central midfield, Flynn moved to right back, and, as they continued to take the game to Leeds, Derby scored twice in a minute early in the second half.

Gabbiadini, who kept all three Leeds centre backs occupied with his aggression and eager running, pounced as Trollope's shot deflected to him after a free kick. That goal was back luck for Leeds, but the next was a disaster as Palmer shepherded the ball back to Beeney, allowing Simpson to get a foot in and prod it past the goalkeeper. "Palmer should have put it into the stand," Wilkinson said.

"I thought when we went two up that we'd be safe for a replay," Smith responded ruefully. However, before the hour, Leeds in their turn had scored two in a minute. They had sent on Wallace to exploit their numerical advantage after falling behind, but the equalising strikes came from the other flank. First, Dorigo's shot deflected to McAllister, who laid it back for Speed to bring his side back into contention. Then, they were level as Yeboah touched Dorigo's cross to Deane, who scored from three yards.

With half an hour remaining, Leeds looked odds-on winners, but the best chance as time began to run out fell to Derby. It was missed and, as Yates went off for treatment and returned limping and the clock ran out, Derby at last succumbed, Hoult's misjudgment allowing McAllister to put his side ahead and then Yeboah rubbing salt in the wounds with his final goal before departing to join Ghana in the African nations' cup. How will Leeds manage without him in the fourth round?

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-3): R Hoult — D Yates, I Stimac (sub: P Trollope, 36min), G Rowett — J Kavanagh, R van der Laan, S Flynn, S Nicholson — P Simpson, R Willems, M Gabbiadini.
LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): M Beeney — C Palmer, D Wetherall (sub: R Wallace, 54), R Jobson — M Ford — G Kelly, G McAllister, G Speed, A Dorigo — A Yeboah, B Deane.
Referee: P Jones.


MARK THOMPSON/ALLSPORT

Yeboah evades a challenge from Hoult, the Derby goalkeeper, as he seals victory for Leeds at the Baseball Ground

Holders survive Stockport's shock treatment

Everton	2
Stockport County	2

By David Maddock

IN THESE days of high-finance football, it is not often that genuine upsets occur, but Stockport County, of the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, prefer romantic tradition to hard-nosed reality and yesterday they ensured that Everton, for all their big-money, big-time status, began their defence of the FA Cup in an unseemly scramble. The FA Carling Premiership club was genuinely relieved, at the end of a wonderful tie, to be heading for a replay in ten days' time.

There have been few shocks in the third round this year, the electricity the FA Cup usually generates unplugged by the ever-growing gulf at the top of the sport. Stockport though, deserved theirs. They played intelligent, aggressive, accomplished football, a heady mix that took them to within inches of victory.

Twice they came from behind to suggest a historic result. Minutes from the end of the game, they almost did just that, Beaumont delivering a shot that removed paint from the far post on its route wide of the goal.

The relief of the home supporters was palpable, echoing around Goodison Park in a series of long sighs, matched only by their boos as the final whistle was reached, a reflection on the performance of the Cup-holders.

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, was forthright in his assessment of his team's display. "I'm probably the happiest man in the stadium because we're still in the competition," he said. "We were awful and we were hanging on at the end."

Stockport began brightly, only to be undone in the seventh minute by rank bad defending. Southall's punt was harmless enough, but Todd, the Stockport full back, performed something resembling the fandango as he failed — repeatedly — to clear, allowing Stuart to dispatch a crisp shot into the net.

Everton's second, on the stroke of half-time, was equally hilarious, or tragic, depending on your viewpoint. Edwards, the Stockport goalkeeper, palmed an up-and-under to Ablett, who was as surprised as anyone to be offered the chance to convert from close range. He accepted.

Stockport could have been excused a bout of moping after such misadventure. Instead, on both occasions, they rolled up their sleeves and found an equaliser. The first was via the classic lower division route one, Armstrong sharply responding after a long, deep ball had allowed the towering Helliwell to cause confusion.

The second was simply classic. It came in the 61st minute as Everton seemed to let their minds drift towards the next round. Beaumont was released down the right, his cross was perfect and Helliwell defied his appearance — a dogged, old-fashioned centre forward — to score deftly with a header from a horizontal position.

It was deserved, as would have been a winner, which threatened as Armstrong, Beaumont and Armstrong again all came close as the game moved to its climax. It was a performance that brought delight to David Jones, the Stockport manager and a former Everton player.

"I said that for us to have any chance we had to play to the best of our ability," he said. "We did. In my six years at this club, that is the best display I have seen from my side. It is an emotional moment for me now, to have come to what I still see as home and see my side produce a result like that."

Everton take note. Money cannot buy everything.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, G Ablett, D Unsworth — A Kanchelskis, J Ebbrell (sub: A Hinchcliffe, 81min), B Horne, A Limpar (sub: A Grant, 66min) — P Rideout, G Stuart.
STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): N Edwards — S Connelly, M Flynn, M Bound, L Todd — C Beaumont (sub: M Chalk, 78), J Eckhardt, T Bennett (sub: T Dinning, 88), J Jeffers — I Helliwell, A Armstrong.
Referee: G Poll.

Portsmouth prove plain sailing for Southampton

Southampton	3
Portsmouth	0

By Nick Szczepanik

THE FA Cup is a great leveller, it is said, and local derbies are even more so: which makes it especially galling for Portsmouth that they rarely threatened to make a game of the Cup tie at The Dell yesterday.

Those looking for evidence of a growing gulf between the FA Carling Premiership and the Endsleigh Insurance League would have found plenty of material here. Not that Southampton should get too carried away: their victory against a team who looked exactly what they are — seventeenth in the first division — should have been more emphatic.

"Local derbies are never classics," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said afterwards, "and there's so much pressure from the rivalry between the fans, because they don't play each other that often. It's important to get your nose in front and stay in front."

The home side did just that, pressing forward from the kick-off — Le Tissier firing an early rangefinder just over from 25 yards — and taking the lead in the twelfth minute when Watson beat Stimson on the byline and crossed to Heaney. His close-range header was scrambled out, but only to Magilton, who found the net despite Knight's valiant attempt to save. Le Tissier was looking as keen as his round-shouldered shamble ever allows, and it took a clumsy foul from Butters to stop him on the edge of the penalty area a minute later.

Portsmouth looked dangerous only when Walsh had the ball at his feet, but too often he received it at head height. Southampton, by contrast, caused problems whenever they got into wide positions.

Shipperley headed Charlton's cross against the foot of a post, then Le Tissier had a good chance made by Heaney's header from Shipperley's cross five minutes before half-time, but he took too long to size it up and side-footed past a post.

A minute into the second half, Portsmouth gave Le Tissier the freedom of the right wing and he exploited it fully, running half the length of the field before cutting inside, making a yard of space and hitting a left-foot shot that Knight could push only into the path of Magilton, who scored with ease.

The same player could have had a hat-trick, after Shipperley's through-ball, but he allowed Knight to save while deciding whether to pass to the unmarked Watson. Now, Southampton were conceding possession and defending in numbers, confident that Portsmouth could not hurt them, and hitting back on the break.

Simpson might have reduced arrears after Hall robbed a dreaming Beasant, but Venison blocked bravely, and a failure to get the ball to Walsh on the ground meant that chances for the visitors were few.

Ten minutes from full-time, Le Tissier beat a defender and squared the ball past Knight for Shipperley to side-foot home from close range. Monkou's careless back-pass gave Carter an apparently unmissable chance, but his drive rebounded across goal off the foot of the post. It would not have been much consolation: Southampton were coasting, saving their energies for sterner battles to come.


Le Tissier: exploited space

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D Beasant — A Nelson, J Dodd, K Monkou, S Charlton — M Le Tissier, B Venison, J Magilton, N Heaney (sub: P McDonald, 45min) — G Watson (sub: N Maddison, 79), N Shipperley.
PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2): A Knight — J Gittens, G Butters, M Stimson — R Pethick, J Durnin, A McLoughlin, F Simpson, P Wood (sub: J Carter, 50) — P Hall (sub: D Burton, 64), P Walsh.
Referee: M Bodenham.

Green on the wrong wavelength

IT WAS the mother of all announcements, the message from hell for Alan Green at the Baseball Ground yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). Green, senior football commentator for *Radio 5 Live*, was merrily informing his listeners of the progress of Derby County against Leeds United, in his usual enthusiastic tones, when the public address system halted him mid-flow.

An appeal was made for the owner of a car to attend to it immediately. "That's my car, that's mine," Green told his audience. A 30-second debate followed before Green, abandoning his headset and microphone to a colleague, set off to tend to the offending vehicle.

It had developed a strange screeching noise on his way back from covering the FA Cup third-round tie between Hereford United and Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday and, apparently, was still whining in the Baseball Ground car park when Green left it. Although he had warned an attendant of its bizarre behaviour, the panic button was pressed.

"I assumed something else had gone wrong," Green said. "When I got back to it, I said to the attendant: 'But I told you about that'." After a five-minute break, he returned to his seat and resumed normal service, describing Leeds' two late goals.

No place like home for 'Fleet

David Powell joins 6,000 Gravesend and Northfleet supporters on their big FA Cup day trip to Villa Park

After heavy overnight rain, the pitch looked just right for FA Cup giant-killing. It was 8.45 on Saturday morning as I stood on the terraces at Stonebridge Road and imagined Aston Villa here. They would not fancy this, would they?

Gravesend and Northfleet, though, had surrendered home advantage, which meant that, as well as lengthening the odds of an upset, residents of Gravesham borough, of which I am one, had to be out of bed early. Instead of a walk to watch our local team in the third round, for the first time since 1963, we had to give up an entire day.

The coaches left at 9am. There were 55 of them and I was in No 14. I sat next to Mike, a Charlton Athletic supporter who had lived in Gravesend all his 48 years. He had been there in 1963 when Gravesend drew 1-1 with Sunderland in the fourth round in front of 12,032 spectators.

Mike remembered Brian Skingley miscuing from five yards out in the dying minutes, giving the Sunderland goalkeeper an easy save. The most famous FA Cup miss was Gordon Smith's for Brighton in the 1983 final, denying his team a victory over Manchester United. "Skingley's was in that league of opportunity," Mike said. Gravesend lost the replay 5-2.

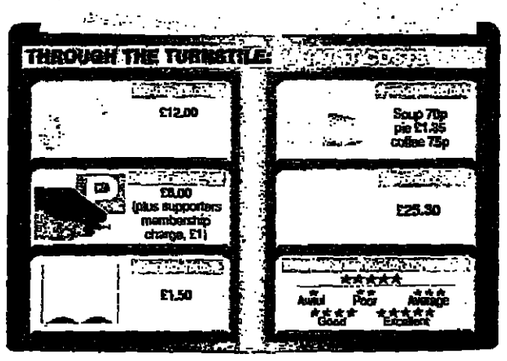
For Mike, this day brought back memories of the Sunderland game, which was why he was on the coach to Villa Park and not heading for Charlton's tie with Sheffield Wednesday. In the Sixties, Gravesend were a prominent non-league club, but now they are near the bottom of the Beazer Homes premier division. A prediction from Mike? Eight to ten-nil, he thought. Six-nil, I said.

At our first stop, I spoke to Kevin, who was counting heads off and on the coach. Kevin had got the job because he was a 'Fleet regular and, since the coaches were being run by the supporters' association, he was the obvious choice. Apart from a friend, he recognised nobody, but did not resent people who had never seen the team before gatecrashing the big day.

Kevin was pleased at the decision to play away. "I want to see Villa Park," he said. Surely, though, the team had no chance away from Stonebridge Road? "No, but as long as we score," he said. "Six-one would be a reasonable result." The decision was justified, he said, by the fact that 6,000 supporters were travelling, eight times the usual home following.

We arrived just before 1pm for a three o'clock kick-off, one of our number remarking as we went past the impressive frontage to the Holte End that it had more steps leading up to it than there were terraces at Stonebridge Road. I would not recommend such an early arrival for visiting supporters.

There are no lunch establishments in the vicinity, so you may as well go directly into the ground. I had a ticket for block R, where Villa have devised a way for early arrivals to kill time. They can queue for ages at the inadequate, solitary catering outlet between the North Stand and the Doug Ellis Stand.



The only other distraction before finding your seat is the betting shop. I backed Villa to win 6-0 (8-1), but could not resist £1 on David Powell of Gravesend to score the first goal (33-1). The bookmaker, of course, knew better. The shortest final score odds of 7-1 were for a 3-0 Villa victory, which is what happened.

The 'Fleet supporters had always known that they would lose, which was why nothing could spoil their day. Their corner was a sea of red and white balloons, flags, hats and scarves. Conceding a goal after two minutes was just an excuse to sing louder.

The team played better than any of us had expected, and who among us will forget Micky Cotter neatly sidestepping two defenders only for Bosnich to make a brilliant save? We shall remember, too, Villa's generosity of spirit. The sponsors announced Gravesend's Peter Mortley as man of the match; and the tannoy played our song, *Here Come The 'Fleet*, though few of us knew of its existence until now.

Back on the coach, we heard Radio 5 Live's interview with Chris Weller, the Gravesend manager. He was choked with emotion, but he did manage to say that he hoped everybody would be back next week. "You wouldn't fit us all in," shouted a wag. Who were they playing next week, I wondered? Back at Stonebridge Road, I looked at the "Next Home Match" board, but it was blank. No bad thing. On a day like today, reality was better left for another time.

Tottenham reprieved by missed penalty as Brough ensures that justice is served

Gallant Hereford stay true to tradition



David Miller delights in the honest endeavours that earned a 1-1 draw and replay windfall

So much of the history of the FA Cup is concerned with proving that your high-flying rivals are not as lofty as they might like to think they are. Once again, little Hereford United marvellously achieved this. They did not quite make sophisticated Tottenham Hotspur grovel, but how they forced them to scramble on a *grey winter* afternoon redolent of the Cup tradition of *David against* Goliath.

The satisfaction of Hereford's performance, with a *team in which* Dean Smith, their captain, is the most expensive — a mere £75,000 from Walsall — was that, on a *pudding* of a pitch and in slanting rain, they outplayed their opponents by intelligence and application, and not with rustic kick and rush.

Though it is doubtful if many of them do learn, it should be a salutary lesson for players worth millions, and being paid many thousands a week, to experience the rough and tumble of rural football: the real world, where players are happy to earn £300 a week, where the voices of the all-star marching band have not yet broken, and where the proudest exhibit before kick-off is Freetown Kudos, the champion local one-ton bull. It was a name apposite for the occasion.

Twenty-four years ago, the hero of victory over Newcastle United had been Ronnie Radford. Now, it was John Brough, an itinerant central *defender who is 23 today and* who arrived at Edgar Street on a free transfer from Telford United via Notts County, where he never made the first team, and Shrewsbury Town. Just after the hour, Brough climbed above Tottenham's defenders to meet Downing's corner and head the equalising goal that takes Hereford *to White Hart Lane for a cash*-filled replay.

By staying true to their regular followers — all 3,000 of them — in the Endsleigh Insurance League third division, and resisting the temptation to switch the match and make sure of the money, Hereford thus earned both renewed glory and financial reward.

Brough, big and eager, had been injured early in the *season. For three months,* he could be seen at the local *swimming baths,* resolutely ploughing through the water to repair a back injury. Six matches ago, he returned. "I've had harder games in the third division," he said, when surrounded by the unusual ring of clamouring microphones and interviewers. Here was a player agreeably free of material ambition, happy with his life and looking forward to a pint at the local.

FA CUP

Since Brough's re*turn, six* weeks ago, *Graham* Turner, the Hereford manager who carries the grand title of director of football, has been employing a Liverpool-style formation: three central defenders and five in midfield behind two strikers, achieved by the full backs pushing forward. There *were no special plans in* preparation for dealing with *Tottenham,* but manager and team discussed responsibilities; Lyne was told that he would mark Armstrong. Brough that he would be required to handle Sheringham.

The prospect did not unnerve him, and his perfor*mance was commendable.* Sheringham made little impact as Hereford's three defenders held their ground. Smith picking up Sheringham or Armstrong whenever they crossed flanks. Tottenham, gratified still to be in the competition, could not go *home complaining that it was* the pitch that had denied *them.*

Early on, sure enough, it had seemed that Tottenham's touch on the ball was going to give them an edge. After ten *minutes, Rosenthal went close* with a speculative drive from 25 yards after a long run by Fox on the right; five minutes later, Armstrong missed the chance to put Tottenham in front. The crowd laughed gleefully when Armstrong's shot flew wildly towards the roof of *the stand, although the ball* had caught a divot as he shot.

Nonetheless, Tottenham took the lead after half an hour, Rosenthal putting the ball away after miscued shots by Sheringham and Caskey, *and from then until half-time* the match died. Hereford seemed to have run out of energy and enterprise.

All was different afterwards. Now, incredibly, it was the no-hope outsiders who were in charge. Austin had to head behind, under pressure from a *centre by Cross, and, with an* hour gone, Hereford were *awarded a penalty as Rosen*thal brought down Pounder a stride inside the area. Up *came Smith to take the kick,* never previously having missed, but he sent the ball almost into Gloucestershire.

As Smith turned and ran back to his own half, Brough called out to him: "Don't worry skipper, there'll be another chance." It came, and Brough took it, within two minutes. Could Hereford hold *on till the finish?*

They did, and more than *that. Now level, they were* dictating the play, pushing the ball down the flanks for runs by Evans and Fishlock, with Cross and White, the veterans up front, holding the ball, turning and laying it off as though it were they who were used to playing in the senior division.

After one glorious run by Cross, White hooked a first-time shot that had Walker beaten but was a foot high. *With 20 minutes remaining,* there might have been a *further penalty when White* was blatantly pushed from behind.

Yet Hereford's bravery and skill might have perished close to the finish. Only an extraordinary save by Mackenzie, low to his left as Sheringham struck the ball from no more than four yards away, protected a precious draw. How well it had been deserved.

HEREFORD UNITED (3-5-2): C Mackenzie — J Brough, D Smith, N Lyne — D Evans, T Pounder, R Wilkins, Y. Downing, M Fishlock — N Cross, S White
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Nethercott, G Mabbutt, J Edinburgh — R Fox (sub: J Dozzell, 60min), S Campbell, D Caskey, R Rosenthal — E Sheringham, C Armstrong
Referee: M Reley



Brough, the Hereford United defender, celebrates the header that secured a draw against Tottenham Hotspur. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Curbishley unmoved by toppling of the casual giant

Charlton Athletic 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By Alyson Rudd

TRAINS in and out of Charlton were subject to seri*ous delays because of the* wrong kind of Sheffield Wednesday supporters. They kept pulling the emergency handle: something their team never considered doing on Saturday despite being outplayed throughout this FA Cup third-round tie.

"Is it so much of a giant killing act?" asked Alan Curbishley, the Charlton Athletic manager, who was annoyed by the media euphoria. As a fixture, Charlton, second in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, playing Wednesday, *who are in the* lower half of the FA Carling *Premiership, ought not to* have been a mis-match if we *are to believe in the meritocra*cy of English football and the osmosis of clubs through the ranks. Charlton could be playing in the Premiership next season; they could even swap places with David Pleat's side.

Yet the differences between the sides were clear. Wednesday played three central defenders, a real Premiership trait. They were older, much older — one, Waddle, was 35 — *they fielded the exotic-sound*ing Degryse, Stefanovic and Kovacevic: and they were casual. They did not actually scuff their heels and pout, with their hands in their pockets, but they looked on the verge of doing so.

Charlton were faster, nimbler, keener. They were better organised, more highly-motivated and they exhibited the more impressive skills. Yet *you could still tell that they* were from a different world.

They are neither fashionable or wealthy. A few injuries and a couple of key suspensions could see their season fall apart; all the more reason to ponder why Charlton threw themselves into this game and Wednesday, who have no title hopes and a bigger squad, did *not.*

Pleat turned languor into a virtue. "Passion comes from within," he said. "A player can't change his character overnight for one game. They are what they are. They need to create, they scored quite a few goals recently by playing quite clever football."

Gravesend take battle honours from day to remember



Turner: allowed Draper's shot to slip from his grasp

Gravesend and N'fleet .. 0
Aston Villa 3

By Walter Gammie

EVERBODY went home happy from Villa Park on Saturday. Gravesend and Northfleet had done themselves proud, Aston Villa's *pride was intact and genera*tions of supporters in both *camps had experienced the* special joy that the FA Cup can bestow when pitching part-timer against top-flight professional.

You would have to be 80 or more to have a clear recollection of Villa's last non-League opponents, Queens Park Rangers in 1920; slightly younger as a Gravesend supporter to recall losing 5-2 to Sunderland, of the second division, *after a replay in the fourth* round in 1963.

What those denied have missed is one of those days when the occasion matters almost as much as the result. The 6,000 Gravesend supporters, who helped to swell the crowd to 26,021 and to ensure a take-home pay-packet of more than £100,000 for the *Kent club, played their part* with gusto.

"It's the first time I've had a standing ovation when we've lost 3-0," Chris Weller, the Gravesend manager, said, knowing that such generosity is unlikely to be repeated should Gravesend lose by the same margin in their next home fixture, against Cheltenham Town in the Beazer Homes League premier divi*sion at Stonebridge Road next* Saturday.

In fact, so determined is Weller to reintroduce his team to their day-to-day footballing selves that he intends to send them out in a reserve match against Maidstone Invicta this week. "I want to bring them back down to earth," he said.

Brian Little, the Villa man*ager, smiled when it was* suggested that he can rarely *have managed a side that had* led 1-0 and been booed off the field at half-time. In fact, the tremor that he confessed had been felt in the unfamiliar confines of the away dressing-room before the match at roaring chorus of anticipation from the Gravesend masses was swiftly stilled by Mark Draper's second-minute goal.

If their crisp start was unravelled by some loose passing, Villa, having repeated their early-strike trick in the second half, left their manager happy enough that "they hadn't taken too much out of themselves" with a full-throttle confrontation with *Wolverhampton Wanderers* looming in the Coca-Cola Cup *quarter-final on Wednesday.*

It was left to Weller to express *disappointment. The* opening goal had followed Gravesend launching the first attack, through a red, black and white minefield of balloons, that saw Cotter, played in by Jackson, tumble in the penalty area. "Penalty, I thought, penalty," Weller said.

The next minute, the vision had disappeared with the *sight of Turner, his goalkeep*er, clutching at air as he was beaten by Draper's shot.

Villa started the second half with more urgency, stretching for the ball. The reward was swift. Milosevic, bewitching in his fitful way, lashed a left-foot volley past Turner after *Townsend scooped up a re*turn pass in the penalty area.

In response, Blewden *let fly* from 30 yards, forcing Bosnich to *fist* away, and Cotter wriggled away from Scimeca and Southgate to bring a diving near-post stop from the goalkeeper. Yet, no reward. Milosevic stirred himself again, a juggle and a jink before laying the ball into the path of the speeding Johnson, *who angled his shot away* from Turner.

The Gravesend substitutes then had their turn, and, all too soon, the squad was jogging round Villa Park for a heartfelt salute from all corners of their home for the day.

"The scoreline didn't do us justice," the emotional Weller suggested. "Mind you, if you'd *offered me 3-0 before the start,* I would have settled for it."

GRAVESEND AND NORTHFLEET (4-4-2): L Turner — D Walker (sub: M Harrop, 78min), M Gubbins, P Morley, P Lamb — M Munday, I Gibbs, C Blewden, J Jackson — M Cotter (sub: G Best, 77), D Powell (sub: C *Gooding, 75)*
ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca — G Charles, T Johnson, M Draper, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S *Milosevic.*
Referee: K Cooper (Pontypridd)

Turnstile view, page 23



Grant: scored the first goal for Charlton

Charlton, mere first division mortals, combined passion and intellect rather well. They spotted almost from the kick-off that Walker and Stefanovic were not on the same wavelength and split open the visitors' defence by pushing the ball between them.

Newton's through-pass in *the seventh minute released* Grant, who gave Charlton the *lead. Ten minutes later, Grant* was brought down by Press*man on the edge of the area* and Mortimer scored from the penalty spot.

Shortly after the interval, Humphrey, the Charlton full back and captain, was dismissed for a second bookable offence. Robinson slotted in at right back in his place and Charlton proceeded to play even more incisively. The Wednesday midfield melted away as Grant ran forward *before passing out to the right* flank. Newton delivered a *beautiful cross for Leaburn,* who headed against the crossbar.

Hirst almost scored and Stefanovic thought that he had — his effort was disallowed — but Charlton were a class apart. In the last seconds, the home side, in time-honoured *tradition, kept the ball in the* opposition's corners and Wednesday looked quite relieved to see it there.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): M Salmon — J Humphrey, R Rufus, S Balmer, J Stuart — S Newton, L Bowyer, P Mortimer, J Robinson — K Grant (sub: G Nelson, *90min) C Leaburn*
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, D Walker, D Stefanovic — I Nolan, M Degryse, C Waddle, G Whitingham, A Sinton — D *Kovacevic, D Hirst.*
Referee: A Wilkie

Pitch is only winner in drab encounter

Ipswich Town 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

By Russell Kempson

BRING together Ipswich Town, the leading goalscorers in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, and Blackburn Rovers, the FA Carling Premiership champions, and a rousing FA Cup third round tie should follow. Add the extra spice of Alan Shearer, domestic marksman extraordinaire, Ipswich's unbeaten eight-match run, Blackburn's dismal away form and a raucous crowd, and a thrilling contest should ensue. Surely?

No way. *At Portman Road on* Saturday, all such expectation was exposed as no more than fantasy. The hopes of so many in blue and white swirled away on the lingering Suffolk mist that provided an eerie presence for most of the afternoon. *Magic of the Cup?* Not here.

Cameos still abounded. From Shearer's *admirable persistence* when nothing was going right, provoking predictable chants of "you'll never score for England" from the cheap seats, to the com*bined efforts of Thomsen* and Mowbray in blocking his path; from the tireless meanderings of Marshall to the unselfish support work of Newell.

A lot of nice bits but only fancy embroidery that never approached *the finished article.* Plenty of passion but never harnessed in any coherent pattern. Thus, it is all back to Ewood Park on January 16, where Rovers will show the more astute side of their character this season and Ipswich will fight the good fight before bowing out gracefully. Saturday *held their best chance; they* knew it and they blew it.

Both managers blamed the surface, a moonscape of greasy turf and strewn divots. They were not lame excuses; it was a pig of a pitch that defied any smooth passage. "It's really cut up," George Burley, of Ipswich, said. "We had a lot of frost a few weeks back and the top soil seems to be lifting." Ray Harford, of Blackburn, agreed. "It was really lumpy," he said.

Quite pathetic, considering the not inconsiderable wages paid to *many of the performers.* They should be able to display their virtues on a rubbish tip. Yet the fact that, by the end, the grass ended up looking like a motocross circuit just about let them off the hook.

Most of the half-chances fell to Ipswich, Flowers doing well to tip over a toe-poked lob from Milton, while Kenna forced an acrobatic save from Forrest on a sporadic Rovers' sortie. Pick most of the other 31 third-round ties, though, and the fare cannot have proved so disap*pointing. Rogue pitch or not.*

IPSWICH TOWN (4-4-2): C Forrest — F Yallop (sub: G Uhlenbeek, 78min), A Mowbray, C Thomsen, M Tarlozo — M Stockwell, G Williams, S Sedgley, S Milton — A Mathie, I Marshall
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman, J Kenna — S Ripley, T Sherwood, W McKinlay, K Gallacher — M Newell, A Sheerer.
Referee: D Elleray.

Skilful Woking pass test of their potential

Swindon Town 2
Woking 0

By Ivo Tennant

TO SWINDON *Town the spoils,* to Woking the plaudits. One club is *through to the fourth round of the* FA Cup, and rightly so. The other is performing with sufficient mastery of the ball to make an indelible impression when, rather than if, it is promoted to the Endsleigh Insurance League.

According to Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager for the past 11 years, the margin of victory on Saturday was not so much two goals as two facets of the game that are not always found in part-timers: fitness and speed of thought. Third in the Vauxhall Conference, what they have achieved already is an ability to pass the ball to feet rather than hoof it forward. They prefer a flexible rather than a regimented approach. They do not have inquests on the team bus. Instead, they eat fish and chips and contemplate what they have to do when they return to work the next day. Football and the FA Cup are forms of escapism.

Woking possessed one of the two most skilful players on the pitch, but then he did make his name for Chelsea. Clive Walker is 38 now but still looking to strike the kind of spectacular goal that used to enthral the trendy and rough elements alike at Stamford Bridge. He would have had another at the County Ground but for an excellent save by Digby when Swindon were only one goal to the good.

Walker, bald but less full of face than a decade ago, has committed himself to Woking for at least one more year. He engenders the same kind of respect as Steve McMahon does from those Swindon players who recall his exploits for Liverpool. The player-manager is not yet 35, which would suggest that Liverpool allowed him to leave when he still had plenty of puff left in him. Here, he appeared fit, combative as ever, and as skilled as Walker.

Swindon's first goal, scored by Allison, came about through poor marking. The other resulted from the kind of cross-cum-shot that so often fools the goalkeeper. Only the scorer himself, on this occasion Bodin, the full back, knows precisely what he intended.

For 20 minutes in between these goals, Chapple was "chuffed to bits" with his team's football. They are still some way from becoming a club of full-time professionals, but their demeanour and footballing beliefs are to be cherished.

SWINDON TOWN (3-5-2): F Digby — M Seagraves, S Taylor (sub: S McMahon, 36min), I Culverhouse — P Allen, M Robinson, M Ling, K Horlock, P Bodin — P Thorne (sub: S Finney, 80), W Allison
WOKING (3-4-3): L Batty — M Tucker, C Fielder, K Brown — J Crumplin, S Thompson, A Ellis, L Wye — S Steele, D Hey, C Walker.
Referee: J Ruchton

Rangers thrive on old head and young legs

Tranmere Rovers 0
Queens Park Rangers 2

By Peter Ball

BEFORE the game at Prenton Park on Saturday, there was some debate *about whether a shock result would* mean victory for Tranmere Rovers or for Queens Park Rangers. In the event, Rangers won, and there was no sense of shock about it. The gap in class between a struggling Premiership side and one mid-table in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division was clear.

Not that it was easy, but it was a notable win for a side on a poor run and down on its luck. "I thought this was going to be a difficult game for us, because the lads played so well against Chelsea last Tuesday and *lost in the last minute, so you never* know how they are going to respond," Ray Wilkins, the Rangers player-manager, said.

With Wilkins and McDonald giving the lead, Rangers responded admirably, making a mockery of *their ill-fortune, which continued up* to the game as Barker and Holloway went down with flu, leaving Wilkins, 39, to partner Quashie, 17, in central midfield. "I thought I couldn't have two young players together there, so I had to play," Wilkins said, "*but I love* playing football. The day I have to pack up because I can't get around a football field any more will kill me."

He need not worry just yet. The old man did well. The young man did rather better than that, the composure with which he scored the opening goal in only his third game, *and first FA Cup tie, suggesting rich* promise. In conditions in which a *team short of confidence could have* buckled, Brazier and Challis, Quashie's young colleagues, also emerged with flying colours.

In the first half, with the fierce wind at their backs holding up the ball disconcertingly, Rangers had some uncomfortable moments, Yates, in particular, suffering a torrid 45 minutes against Moore. Sommer lost a back-pass and watched in horror as Moore's effort passed across goal, Yates miskicked a low cross just over his own bar, and Sommer was stranded as *McGreal's pass was held up by the* wind.

However, with McDonald having an outstanding game, getting head or foot to everything as the siege mounted, and all the while keeping Aldridge out of the danger zone, Rangers held on. The quality of Quashie's finish ten minutes into *the second half tilted the tie their* way. Four minutes later, Sinclair pounced on Maddix's knock-back from Wilkins's corner, and that was that.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): D Coyne — A Thomas, J McGreal, S Garnett, A Rogers — J Morrissey, G Brannan, G Jones (sub: L O'Brien, *70min), P Nevin — J Aldridge, I Moore.*
QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — P Ready (sub: G Goodridge, 68), S Yates (sub: D Maddix, 45), A McDonald, T Challis — A Impey, N Quashie, R Wilkins, M Brazier — T Sinclair, B Allon *(sub: D Dichio, 84)*
Referee: J Winter

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SUMMARIES OF THE THIRD-ROUND TIES

FA CUP

ARSENAL (0) 1 SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 1
Wright 70 — Whitehouse 78
33,453

Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Merson, Jensen, Hartson, Clarke, Wright. Halder
Booked: Keown, Adams, Winterburn.
Sheffield United: Kelly, Short, Ward, Gannon (sub: Hodgson, 81min), York, Nilsen, White, Cowans, Slatcock (sub: Heath, 59), Hodges, Whitehouse.
Booked: Short, White
Referee: P Durkin
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.45).

BARNSLEY (0) 0 OLDHAM (0) 0
9,751

Barnsley: Watson, Eaden, Shirtliff, Sheridan (sub: Bullock, 73min), Davis, De Zeeuw, Liddell (sub: Payton, 59), Redfearn, O'Connell, Rammell, Archdeacon.
Booked: Sheridan
Oldham Athletic: Gerrard, McNiven, Makin, Hughes, Graham, Redmond, Halle, Onrygsson, McCarthy, Barlow, Rickers.
Referee: G Cain.
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.45).

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 WOLVERHAMPTON (1) 1
Poole 72 — G Bull 25
21 349

Birmingham City: Bennett, Poole, Frain, Forsyth, Edwards, Daish, Hunt (sub: Bosen, 70min), Claridge, Francis (sub: S Bull, 70), Richardson, Donowa.
Booked: Poole, Daish, Donowa.
Wolverhampton Wanderers: Stowell, Thompson, Young, Atkins, Emolen (sub: Rankine, 45) (sub: Foley, 65), Richards, Williams, Goodman, G Bull, Osborn, Pearce (sub: Ferguson, 62)
Booked: Thompson.
Referee: R Hart.
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45)

BRADFORD (0) 0 BOLTON (1) 3
10,265 — McGinlay 40, Curcic 53, 66

Bradford City: Ward, Mitchell (sub: Murray, 56min), Jacobs, Foods, Brightwell, Mohan, Hustard, Duxbury, Tolson (sub: Shutt, 45), Jewell (sub: Ormondroyd, 56), Showler.
Bolton Wanderers: Branagan, Green, Phillips, Curcic, Farnsworth, Stubbs, Taggart, Sneekes, Sellars, Blake, McGinlay.
Referee: S Dunn.

CHARLTON (2) 2 SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0
Grant 7 — 13,815
Mortimer 36 (pen)

Charlton Athletic: Salmon, Humphrey, Rufus, Balmer, Stuart, Newton, Bowyer, Mortimer, Robinson, Leaburn.
Grant (sub: Nelson, 80min).
Booked: Humphrey, Mortimer
Sent off: Humphrey (54)
Sheffield Wednesday: Pressman, Stefanovic, Walker, Atherton, Nolan, Sinton, Waddle, Degryse, Whitingham, Kowacevic, Hirst.
Booked: Pressman, Stefanovic, Nolan
Referee: A Wilkie.

CREWE (3) 4 WEST BROMWICH (1) 3
Adebola 22 Rivers 25 — Hunt 27 Raven 64
Booty 31 — Coldicott 86
Murphy 59 — 5,750

Crewe Alexandra: Gayle, Collins, Booty, Westwood, Macauley, Whalley, Rivers (sub: Clarkson, 90), Murphy, Adebola (sub: Smith, 88), Lennon, Edwards.
West Bromwich Albion: Naylor, Burgess, Edwards (sub: Smith, 70), Coldicott, Mardon, Raven, Donovan, Gilbert (sub: Ashcroft, 45), Taylor, Hunt, Darby (sub: Hamilton, 75).
Booked: Burgess.
Referee: I Cruickshank

C PALACE (0) 0 PORT VALE (0) 0
10,455

Crystal Palace: Martyn, Edworthy, Gordon, Roberts, Davies, Hopkin (sub: Rodger, 68min), Pitcher, Houghton, Freedman, Taylor, Vincent (sub: McKenzie, 45).
Booked: Vincent.
Port Vale: Musselwhite, Hill, Tankard, Boge, Talbot (sub: Walker, 85), Glover, McCarthy, Porter, Foyle, Naylor, Guppy
Booked: Boge.
Referee: R Poulain.
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.45).

FULHAM (0) 1 SHREWSBURY (0) 1
Angus 83 — Evans 60
7,265

Fulham: Lange, Jupp, Herrera, Marshall (sub: Moore, 73min), Angus, Blake, Thomas, Morgan, Brazil, Conroy (sub: Cusack, 45), Bolt (sub: Hamill 61).
Sent off: Brazil (26)
Shrewsbury Town: Edwards, Evans, Withe, Taylor, Whalton, Scott, Woods (sub: Dempsey, 85), Rowbotham (sub: Spark, 50), Ashbrooke, Walton, Berkley

Booked: Berkley.
Referee: G Pooley
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.30).

GRAVESEND & N(0) 0 ASTON VILLA (1) 3
26,021 — Draper 2 Milosevic 46 Johnson 72

(at Villa Park)

Gravesend and Northfleet: Turner, Walker (sub: Hamp, 79), Lamb, Gobbles, Mortley, Jackson, Gibbs, Cutler (sub: Best, 70), Blowden, Munday, Powell (sub: Gooding, 75).
Aston Villa: Bosnich, Charles, Wright, Southgate, Scimeca, Ehiogu, Yorke, Draper, Milosevic, Johnson, Townsend.
Referee: K Cooper (Pontypridd).

GRIMSBY (4) 7 LUTON (1) 1
Forrester 15, 31 — Marshall 38
Livingstone 23, 72 — 5,367
Bonnett 45
Southall 80
Woods 84

Grimsby Town: Crichton, Laws, Croft, Handyside, Rodger Graves, Childs (sub: Southall, 78min), Dobbin (sub: Shakespeare, 78), Forrester, Livingstone (sub: Woods, 76), Bonnett.
Booked: Laws
Luton Town: Feuer, Patterson, Thomas, Waddock, James, Johnson, Gvenlchev (sub: Thorpe, 69), Oakes, Oldfield, McLaren (sub: Alexander 57), Marshall.
Booked: James.
Referee: P Richards.

HEREFORD (0) 1 TOTTENHAM (1) 1
Brough 62 — Rosenthal 31
8,806

Hereford United: Mackenzie, Evans, Fishlock, D Smith, Pounder, Brough, Lynn, Williams, Cross, White, Downing.
Booked: White, Downing,
Tottenham Hotspur: Walker, Austin, Edinburgh, Mabbutt, Fox (sub: Dozzell, 61min), Shenaghan, Arcoslong, Nethercott, Rosenthal, Caskey, Campbell.
Booked: Edinburgh, Nethercott.
Referee: M Riley
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45).

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 BLACKPOOL (1) 1
Jepson 44 (pen), 87 — Quinn 25
12,424

Huddersfield Town: Francis, Jenkins, Cowan, Bullock, Stewart (sub: Collins, 62min), Gray, Rowe, Makel, Booth, Jepson, Dunn (sub: Dalton, 79).
Booked: Cowan.
Blackpool: Banks, Bryan, Barlow (sub: Gouck, 88), Bradshaw (sub: Brown, 88), Mellon, Quinn (sub: Preece, 67), Lydiate, Bonner, Morrison, Ellis, Watson.
Referee: N Barry.

IPSWICH (0) 0 BLACKBURN (0) 0
21,235

Ipswich Town: Forrest, Yallop (sub: Uhlenbeek, 78min), Tanoco, Thomsen, Mowbray, Williams, Stockwell, Sedgley, Mathie, Marshall, Milton.
Blackburn Rovers: Flowers, Coleman, Kenna, Sherwood, Hendry, Ripley, Gallacher, Berg, McKinlay, Shearer, Newell.
Booked: Sherwood.
Referee: D Elleray
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.45).

LEICESTER (0) 0 MAN CITY (0) 0
20,640

Leicester City: Poole, Grayson, Smith, Hill, Walsh, Parker, Corica (sub: Joachim, 80), Taylor, Roberts, Roberts, Philpott.
Manchester City: Immel, Lomas, Ekelund, Curle, Quinn, Flitcroft, Brightwell, Symons, Summerbee, Brown, Beiler
Referee: R Gifford.
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45).

LIVERPOOL (3) 7 ROCHDALE (0) 0
Fowler 21 — 28,126
Collymore 43, 44, 70
Valentine 48 (og)
Rush 61 McAteer 85

Liverpool: James, Jones (sub: Rush, 58min), McAteer, Wright (sub: Matteo, 58), Scales, Harkness, McManaman, Barnes, Thomas, Collymore, Fowler
Booked: Harkness.
Rochdale: Clarke, Thackeray, Formby, Deary, Valentine, Butler, Thompson (sub: Thompstone, 60), Martin, Moulden (sub: Shaw, 54), Whitehall, Peake (sub: Ryan, 54).
Booked: Butler, Whitehall.
Referee: K Leach

MAN UTD (1) 2 SUNDERLAND (0) 2
Butt 13 Cantona 80 — Agnew 61
41,563 — Russell 64

Manchester United: Pilkington, G Neville (sub: P Neville, 66min), Irwin, Bruce, Keane, Pallister, Cantona, Butt, Cole, Beckham (sub: Sharpe, 59), Giggs
Booked: Irwin, Beckham.
Sunderland: Chamberlain, Rubeck, Scott, Bracewell, Ball (sub: Agnew, 25), Melville, M Gray, Ord, Russell, P Gray (sub: Howey, 86), Kelly (sub: Smith, 82).
Booked: Scott, Ord, Agnew, Russell.
Referee: M Reed.
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45).

MILLWALL (0) 3 OXFORD UTD (1) 3
Rae 60, 84 — Massey 11
Mellon 65 — Moody 58 Ford 89
7,564

Millwall: Keller, Newman, Thatcher, Bowry, Wilne, Webber, Lavin (sub: Forbes, 79), Rae, Mahon, Dixon (sub: Fyfchs, 82), Berry (sub: Taylor, 60)
Booked: Lavin, Rae, Fyfchs.
Oxford United: Whitehead, Robinson, M Ford, Smith, Elliott, Gilchrist, Rush (sub: Allen, 74), Massey, Moody (sub: Aldridge, 74), B Ford, Angel
Referee: C Wilkes.
Replay: Tuesday 16 January (7.45)

NORWICH (0) 1 BRENTFORD (1) 2
Newsome 65 — Newsome 20 (og)
10,092 — Bent 60

Norwich City: Gunn, Bradshaw (sub: Phor, 80min), Bowen (sub: Sutch, 45), Walkhouse, Newsome, Polston, Adams, Fleck (sub: Eadie, 45), Ward, Goss, O'Neill.
Brentford: Reardon, Harvey (sub: Martin, 90), Grainger, Hotchkiss, Bates, Ashby, McGhee, Smith, Forster, Bent (sub: Anderson, 90). Taylor Subs Not Used: Fernandes.
Booked: McGhee.
Referee: J Kirby.

NOTTS CO (0) 1 MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2
Rogers 52 — Pollock 46
12,621 — Barmby 48

Notts County: Ward (sub: Agana, 83min), Gallagher, Barraclough, Turner (sub: Simpson, 67), Strodder, Hogg, Rogers, Murphy, Devlin, Arians, Legg (sub: White, 76).
Booked: Murphy.
Middlesbrough: Walsh, Liddle, Fleming (sub: Slamo, 31), Vickers, Pearson, Whelan, Barmby (sub: Moreno, 89), Pollock, Wilkinson, Jonlinio, Robson.
Booked: Liddle, Robson.
Referee: G Ashby.

PETERBOROUGH(0) 1 WREXHAM (0) 0
La Ronde 52 — 5,983

Peterborough: Sheffield, Williams, Clark, Elkins, Breen, Heald, Carter (sub: Spearing, 67), Manuel (sub: Le Ronde, 46), Martindale, Farrell, Morrison.
Booked: Manuel.
Wrexham: Marriott, Jones, Hardy, Phillips, Humes, Hunter, Skinner (sub: McGregor, 85), Russell, Connolly, Morris (sub: Durkan, 64), Ward.
Booked: Ward.
Referee: T West.

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 COVENTRY (0) 3
Baird 19 — Pickering 53
17,721 — Salako 55 Telfer 58

Plymouth Argyle: Blackwell, Bely, Williams, Logan, Heathcote, Hill, Baird (sub: Twiddy, 71min), Mauge (sub: Saunders, 71), Littlejohn, Evans, Leadbitter.
Booked: Mauge.
Coventry City: Ogrizovic, Pickering, Hall, Shaw, Williams, Busst, Richardson, Telfer, Whelan, Dublin, Salako
Sent off: Busst (18).
Referee: G Willard.

READING (0) 3 GILLINGHAM (1) 1
Morley 58 — Martin 33
Quinn 72, 77 — 10,324

Reading: Mihailov, Swales (sub: Lambert, 72min), Gooding, Thorp, Williams, Jones, Quinn (sub: Lovell, 88), Parkinson, Morley, Hogan, Holsgrove.
Gillingham: Sherwood, Green, Saylor (sub: Carpenter, 86), Smith, Hanns, Butler, Martin, Ratcliffe (sub: Dowie, 86), Fortune-West, Bailey, Middlewhite (Pulman 82)
Booked: Naylor, Harris, Middlewhite, Martin.
Sent off: Smith (36), Martin (74).
Referee: P Alcock.

STOKE CITY (1) 1 NOTTM FOREST (0) 1
Stamidge 45 — Pearce 82
18,000

Stoke City: Prudhoe, Clarkson, Sandford, Sigurdsson, Dreyer, Potter, Keen, Wallace, Stamidge, Carruthers, Stoghton.
Nottingham Forest: Crossley, Lyttle, Pearce, Cooper, Chettle, Gemmill, Campbell, Woan, Stone, Bart-Williams, Roy (sub: Lee, 74min)
Referee: D Gallagher (Banbury)
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45)

SWINDON (1) 2 WOKING (0) 0
Allison 17 Bodin 84 — 10,322

Swindon Town: Digby, Culverhouse, Bodin, Ling, Seagraves, Taylor (sub: McMahon, 36), Robinson, Allen, Thome (sub: Finney, 81), Allison, Horlock.
Booked: Allison.
Woking: Batty, Tucker, Wye, Fielder, Brown, Crampton, Thompson, Elks, Steele, Hay, Walker.
Referee: J Rushton

TRANMERE (0) 0 OPR (0) 2
10,230 — Quashie 55 Sinclair 59

Tranmere Rovers: Coyne, Rogers, Thomas, McGreal, Garnett, Jones (sub: O'Brien, 70min), Morrissey, Aldridge, Brannon, Moore, Nevin.
Queens Park Rangers: Sommer, Ready (sub: Goodridge, 68), Challis, McDonald, Yates (sub: Maddix, 45), Impey, Wilkins, Quashie, Brazier, Allen (sub: Dichio, 64), Sinclair.
Booked: Wilkins, Brazier.
Referee: J Winter.

WALSALL (0) 1 WIGAN (0) 0
Pender 76 (og) — 5,672

Walsall: Wood, Marriott, Rogers, Wilcock, Marsh (sub: Kelsey, 69min), Mcweinall, O'Connor, Bradley, Lightbourne (sub: Butler, 87), Wilson, Houghton.
Booked: Wilcock.
Wigan Athletic: Farnworth, Carragher, Sharp, Greenall, Pender, Farrell (sub: Ogden, 85), Diaz, Martinez, Lennard, Rimmer (sub: Sibbs, 81), Lyons.
Booked: Carragher, Martinez, Rimmer.
Referee: K Lynch.

WATFORD (1) 1 WIMBLEDON (1) 1
Mooney 36 — Leonhardsen 33
11,187

Watford: Miller, Bazeley, Millen, Foster, Holdsworth, Ramage, Johnson, Pitcher (sub: Payne, 82min), Mooney (sub: Ludlow, 66), Macalee, Phillips.
Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Kimble, Perry, Reeves, Leonhardsen, Earle, Ekolin (sub: Ewell, 74), Holdsworth, Gayle, Harford.
Referee: P Danson.
Replay: Wednesday 17 January (7.45).

WEST HAM (0) 2 SOUTHEND (0) 0
Moncur 57 — 23,284
Hughes 87

West Ham United: Miklosko, Harkes, Dicks, Potts, Reiper, Bishop, Moncur, Williamson, Cottee, Dowie, Hughes.
Southend United: Royce, Dublin, Powell, McNally, Bodley, Gridelet, Marsh, Byrne, Regis, Jones (sub: Thomson, 71min), Hails.
Booked: McNally, Jones, Hails.
Referee: L Dilkes.

YESTERDAY

CHELSEA (1) 1 NEWCASTLE (0) 1
Hughes 35 — Ferdinand 90
25,151

Chelsea: Kharsie, Spencer, Hughes, Wise, Farlong, Myers, Newton, Lee, Petrescu (sub: Clarke, 58min), Preton, Dibavni.
Booked: Hughes.
Newcastle United: Srnicek, Barton, Elliott, Peacock, Howey, Lee (sub: Clark, 46), Ferdinand, Albert, Ginola, Kitson, Beardsley.
Booked: Barton, Elliott, Lee, Howey.
Referee: S Lodge.

DERBY COUNTY (0) 2 LEEDS (0) 4
Gabbiadini 49 — Deane 59
Simpson 90 — McAllister 80,
16,155 — Speed 88
— Yeboah 89

Derby County: Hoult, Rowett, Nicholson, Simpson, Yates, Simas (sub: Trollope, 26min), Van der Laan, Flynn, Willems, Gabbiadini (sub: Wrack, 90), Kavanagh.
Sent off: Rowett (31).
Booked: Gabbiadini.
Leeds United: Beeney, Kelly, Dorigo, Palmer, Wetherall (sub: Wallace, 54), Johnson, Ford, Yeboah, Deane, McAllister, Speed.
Booked: Kelly, Johnson, Deane, Ford.
Referee: P Jones.

EVERTON (2) 2 STOCKPORT (1) 2
Ablett 44 — Armstrong 31
Stuart 7 — Hellewell 81
28,921

Everton: Southall, Unsworth, Watson, Ablett, Stuart, Rideout, Horne, Limpar (sub: Grant, 86min), Ebbrell (sub: Hinchcliffe, 61), Jackson, Kanchelskis.
Booked: Limpar.
Stockport County: Edwards, Connelly, Todd, Bennett (sub: Dearden, 89), Flynn, Bound, Beaumont (sub: Chalk, 78), Eckhardt, Hellewell, Armstrong, Jeffers.
Booked: Hellewell.
Referee: G Poll.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 PORTSMOUTH (0) 0
Magilton 12, 46 — 16,046
Shipperley 80

Southampton: Bennett, Dodd, Neilson, Charlton, Magilton, Monkou, Le Tissier, Venison, Shipperley, Heaney (sub: McDonald, 45min), Watson (sub: Maddison, 79).
Booked: Le Tissier, Venison, McDonald.
Portsmouth: Knight, Pethick, Stimson, McLoughlin, Ellines, Butters, Walsh, Simpson, Durnin, Hall (sub: Barton, 64), Wood (sub: Carter, 50).
Booked: Butters, Pethick, Walsh, Hall, Simpson.
Referee: M Bodenham.

DAVE KENDALL

THE FA CUP GOAL RACE

IAN RUSH'S goal in Liverpool's 7-0 victory over Rochdale on Saturday makes him the highest scorer in the FA Cup since the competition was established in its present format in 1925-26. His 42nd goal in 63 ties takes him above Denis Law. Rush has scored five goals in three finals (1986, 1989 and 1992) and two hat-tricks. He has lost only one tie in which he has scored, the 1989-90 semi-final against Crystal Palace.

RUSH'S RECORD

With Chester City

Goal	Year/round	Score/opponent
(1)	1979-80 Rnd 1	5-1 v Workington
(2)	1979-80 Rnd 3	2-0 v Newcastle
(3)	1979-80 Rnd 4	2-0 v Millwall

With Liverpool

Goal	Year/round	Score/opponent
(4/5)	1981-2 Rnd 3	4-0 v Swansea
(6)	1981-2 Rnd 4	3-0 v Sunderland
(7)	1982-3 Rnd 3	2-1 v Blackburn
(8)	1982-3 Rnd 4	2-0 v Stoke City
(9/10)	1983-4 Rnd 3	4-0 v Newcastle
(11/12)	1984-5 Rnd 3	3-0 v Aston Villa
(13)	1984-5 Rnd 4	1-0 v Tottenham
(14)	1984-5 Rnd 5	1-1 v York City
(15-17)	1984-5 Rnd 6	4-0 v Barnsley
(18)	1985-6 Rnd 4	2-1 v Chelsea
(19)	1985-6 Rnd 6	2-1 v Watford
(20/21)	1985-6 S/final	2-0 v Soton
(22/23)	1985-6 Final	3-1 v Everton
(24)	1988-9 Rnd 4	2-0 v Millwall
(25/26)	1988-9 Final	3-2 v Everton
(27-29)	1988-90 Rnd 3	3-0 v Swansea
(30)	1989-90 Rnd 5	3-0 v Soton
(31)	1989-90 Rnd 6	2-2 v QPR
(32)	1989-90 S/final	3-4 v C Palace
(33)	1990-1 Rnd 3	3-0 v Blackburn
(34/35)	1990-1 Rnd 4	2-2 v Brighton
(36)	1990-1 Rnd 4	3-2 v Brighton
(37)	1990-1 Rnd 5	4-4 v Everton
(38)	1991-2 Final	2-0 v Sunderland
(39)	1992-3 Rnd 3	2-2 v Bolton
(40)	1992-3 Rnd 3	1-1 v Bristol City
(41)	1994-5 Rnd 5	2-0 v Wimbledon
(42)	1995-6 Rnd 3	7-0 v Rochdale

Leading Cup scorers
42: I Rush (Chester, Liverpool).
41: D Law (Huddersfield, Man City, Man Utd).
38: A Clarke (Walsall, Fulham, Leeds, Leicester, Barnsley).
35: J Greaves (Chelsea, Tottenham)



History in the making: Rush scores against Rochdale to make it 42 FA Cup goals.

CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Newcastle	21	11	0	0	26	5	4	3	3	16	13	48	+24
2 Man Utd	22	8	3	0	24	9	4	2	5	17	18	41	+14
3 Liverpool	21	8	2	1	27	8	3	3	4	13	12	38	+20
4 Tottenham	22	5	3	3	16	12	5	5	1	15	10	38	+9
5 Aston Villa	20	5	3	1	14	6	5	2	4	13	9	35	+12
6 Arsenal	22	6	4	1	19	10	3	3	5	9	10	34	+8
7 Notts For	21	6	4	0	18	6	2	6	3	14	23	34	+1
8 Middlesbro	22	7	2	2	18	9	2	4	5	5	12	33	+2
9 Everton	22	6	2	3	20	11	3	3	5	12	13	32	+6
10 Blackburn	22	9	1	1	29	8	0	4	7	4	18	32	+7
11 Leeds	21	6	2	3	14	10	3	3	4	14	17	32	+1
12 Chelsea	22	4	5	2	14	12	4	3	4	9	12	32	-1
13 Sheff Wed	21	4	3	4	20	18	2	4	4	12	14	25	-0
14 West Ham	20	3	3	3	10	13	3	2	6	12	17	23	-8
15 Wimbledon	22	2	4	5	15	19	3	2	6	16	25	21	-13
16 Soton	21	3	4	3	9	9	1	4	6	11	22	20	-11
17 Coventry	21	3	4	4	16	18	1	3	6	12	25	19	-15
18 Man City	21	4	3	4	7	8	1	1	8	5	23	19	-19
19 QPR	22	3	3	5	12	18	2	0	9	5	15	18	-16
20 Bolton	22	2	3	6	8	16	0	1	10	13	28	10	-23

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Derby	25	8	4	1	25	11	5	3	4	16	18	46	41
2 Charlton	24	5	5	2	17	14	5	4	3	14	10	39	31
3 Leicester	24	4	3	4	18	18	6	5	2	22	17	38	40
4 Huddersfld	26	8	2	3	25	15	2	6	5	11	17	38	36
5 Birmingham	24	6	5	1	19	12	4	3	5	15	18	38	34
6 Sunderland	22	6	3	1	19	7	4	5	3	11	12	38	30
7 Southend	25	7	4	2	17	12	3	4	5	11	16	38	28
8 Grimsby	24	5	7	1	16	11	4	3	4	14	16	37	30
9 Stoke	25	4	5	3	15	10	5	4	4	21	22	36	36
10 Millwall	24	5	4	5	12	14	5	5	2	14	16	36	26
11 Norwich	26	5	5	3	16	13	4	3	6	22	20	35	38
12 Ipswich	24	6	4	3	26	20	2	5	4	16	16	33	44
13 Tranmere	23	6	3	3	23	13	3	3	5	11	13	33	34
14 Barnsley	25	6	4	2	17	15	2	5	6	16	26	33	33
15 C Palace	23	2	5	3	12	14	6	3	4	18	17	32	30
16 Oldham	24	5	5	2	21	12	2	5	5	13	16	31	34
17 Portsmouth	28	5	4	4	23	18	2	4	7	17	25	29	40
18 Reading	24	5	3	4	18	17	1	7	4	13	16	28	31
19 Port Vale	25	3	5	6	15	19	3	5	5	15	19	28	30
20 Wolves	24	3	6	4	16	17	2	3	6	14	19	24	30
21 West Brom	24	5	1	6	15	16	2	2	8	13	25	24	28
22 Watford	23	3	5	3	15	12	2	4	6	12	18	24	27
23 Sheff Utd	24	3	4	5	16	19	2	3	7	16	24	21	31
24 Luton	23	2	4	6	15	20	2	3	6	4	16	19	19

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Crewe	22	8	2	1	24	10	5	3	3	18	13	44	42
2 Swindon	22	5	5	1	16	7	7	3	1	20	8	44	36
3 Blackpool	22	6	2	2	17	9	5	4	3	17	14	38	34
4 Notts Co	21	6	2	3	19	11	5	4	1	14	7	39	33
5 Shrewsbury	24	6	2	4	19	13	5	2	5	15	17	37	34
6 Chesterfld	22	7	3	1	22	9	3	3	5	12	15	36	34
7 Burnley	22	6	5	1	22	12	3	3	4	13	15	35	35
8 Wrexham	22	6	4	1	24	13	2	6	3	10	12	34	34
9 Bradford	22	7	2	2	18	13	3	2	6	14	20	34	32
10 Wycombe	22	4	6	1	14	10	4	4	3	16	12	34	30
11 Stockport	23	3	6	2	12	9	5	3	4	16	13	33	28
12 Bournemth	24	7	3	3	18	14	2	2	7	7	17	32	25
13 Oxford Utd	22	8	1	2	22	9	0	6	5	7	14	31	29
14 Bristol R	23	4	2	6	14	20	4	4	3	11	13	30	25
15 Walsall	22	3	6	2	14	11	4	2	5	10	7	29	24
16 Bristol C	23	4	4	3	10	8	2	5	5	12	22	27	22
17 Peterboro	22	5	3	3	17	10	1	5	5	11	22	26	28
18 Carlisle	24	4	4	3	15	11	1	4	8	14	27	23	29
19 York	22	3	3	5	12	15	3	1	7	13	22	22	25
20 Rotherham	23	5	4	3	19	15	0	3	8	6	23	22	25
21 Brentford	22	5	1	5	10	10	0	5	6	8	19	21	18
22 Swansea	22	3	5	3	14	13	1	3	7	8	23	20	22
23 Brighton	23	3	3	6	11	17	2	1	8	8	20	19	19
24 Hull	22	1	4	5	10	18	1	4	7	7	18	14	17

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Chester	23	6	3	2	23	13	6	4	2	18	12	43	41
2 Gillingham	22	8	1	1	16	2	4	6	2	11	5	43	27
3 Preston	23	6	5	1	31	11	4	6	1	17	10	41	48
4 Plymouth	23	7	3	2	22	11	3	4	4	15	14	37	37
5 Colchester	23	6	3	2	19	11	3	6	3	15	16	36	34
6 Bury	23	4	5	4	11	15	5	3	2	17	14	35	28
7 Cambridge	23	5	5	2	21	14	4	1	6	15	22	33	36
8 Darlington	22	3	4	4	11	11	5	5	1	13	10	33	24
9 Rochdale	22	4	4	2	19	13	5	1	6	14	13	32	33
10 Wigan	23	7	2	3	17	14	1	6	4	13	14	32	30
11 Doncaster	22	7	3	1	16	9	2	2	7	10	22	32	26
12 Exeter	25	4	5	3	12	12	2	7	4	15	18	30	27
13 Barnet	23	4	5	3	14	14	2	6	3	9	11	29	23
14 Northamptn	23	3	5	3	16	12	4	2	6	10	13	28	26
15 L Orient	24	6	2	4	16	12	1	5	6	8	21	28	24
16 Hartlepool	23	3	7	1	14	11	3	1	6	10	22	26	24
17 Cardiff	24	3	4	5	9	8	3	4	5	14	21	26	23
18 Hereford	22	3	4	4	18	16	2	6	3	9	11	25	27
19 Mansfield	23	1	7	4	13	20	3	5	3	18	22	24	31
20 Scarboro	22	3	6	2	13	13	2	3	6	12	19	24	25
21 Scunthorpe	21	3	4	3	12	12	2	4	5	16	16	23	28
22 Fulham	22	4	6	1	21	13	0	5	6	7	19	23	28
23 Lincoln	22	2	4	5	12	16	3	3	5	11	20	22	23
24 Torquay	23	2	3	7	10	24	0	5	6	10	21	14	20

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	22	8	2	1	28	7	8	3	0	23	3	53	+41
2 Celtic	20	6	4	1	16	9	7	2	0	20	6	45	+21
3 Hibernian	20	5	2

Big-hitting eighth-wicket pair snatch victory for Western Province

England's one-day rehearsal falls flat

FROM SIMON WILDE, IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (England XI won toss): Western Province beat an England XI by three wickets

NO ENGLAND cricket tour is apparently complete these days without a humiliating defeat at the hands of youthful upstarts. The team in South Africa duly experienced theirs in front of 15,000 people at Newlands at 10.20pm on Saturday night, at a time when, in different circumstances, they might have been celebrating victory in the Test series.

On paper, losing to a Western Province team shorn of its five players on duty for the final Test match earlier in the week, Desmond Haynes, its overseas player, and with two more incapacitated by injury, must rank as a performance more crass than being beaten by a team of fringe Test players in Grenada two years ago or by an Australian Academy side — twice — at North Sydney Oval last winter.

Indeed, no amount of reasoning could hide the embarrassment of the England party as a brave if fortuitous eighth-wicket partnership between Faiek David and Paul Kirsten — brother of Gary — turned what looked like a hopeless position for Western Province into victory within the space of 49 balls that produced 68 runs.

Yet it would be wrong to read too much into the outcome of a match arranged only 48 hours earlier and played on the same pitch on which England slid to an early defeat to surrender the Test series.

England would have dearly liked to win, and were trying hard enough, but they, too, were below strength and their main object in the match was to give the limited-over specialists, who have joined the party for the one-day international series that starts here tomorrow, a meaningful workout.

It is their performances that the England management will have reflected on.

Most concern will centre on the two all-rounders, Craig White and Dermot Reeve. Reeve, like Neil Smith, had not played a serious match since September and the charitable view of his bowling, which posed few threats, was that he was rusty. The same could not be said of White, who came fresh from the A tour of Pakistan.

His batting exhibited this freshness, a sprightly 46 from 57 balls being the most impressive batting of the England innings. In partnership with Fairbrother, who scratched around for 107 balls over the same number of runs as himself, he rallied England from a woeful start that had seen them lose three wickets for 11 runs.

It was White's bowling that maintained the suspicion that he falls short of international class. He began well enough, and claimed an early wicket, but, as the pressure mounted, he was found wanting.

Atherton tested the mettle of all his bowlers by frequently switching them, and it was perhaps significant that it was to White, of whom he is scarcely a wholehearted supporter, that he gave the ball for the penultimate over, with Western Province needing 15 to win.

Six balls were sufficient to finish the match, the over yielding 18 runs, including an on-drive for six that brought up a half-century in only 38 balls for Davids, who grew up playing the game with Sacos, the non-white organisation, and went to the last World Cup as one of two development players in the South Africa squad.

White completed his over grim-faced, which made it all the stranger to hear Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, say later that White had "come through all right".

Smith, in his first game for England, showed himself in a better light, contributing useful late runs with the bat and bowling six tidy overs, albeit before the sudden change in tempo. Unfortunately for him, Watkinson, with whom he is vying for a place, also performed capably, though it was against Watkinson that Davids first got into his stride.

The start of England's innings was ruined by Meyrick Pringle, who performed the hat-trick against them in Soweto ten weeks ago and who was on one again after dismissing Atherton and the unfortunate Ramprakash with successive balls. It was Ramprakash's third nought in a row, although he was out to a poor decision, the ball being caught off his arm-guard. Thorpe, who opened the batting in the hope of playing a long innings, also failed.

GRAHAM MORRIS



A downcast Ramprakash could not believe his luck as Davids caught him off his first ball to continue what has been a luckless tour

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI

G P Thorpe c Gibbs b Pringle	7
*M A Atherton c Kirsten b Pringle	4
M R Ramprakash c Davids b Pringle	0
N H Fairbrother c Commins b Davids	46
C White c Davids b Rundle	46
D A Reeve st Kirsten b Rundle	23
†R C Russell b Martyn	23
M Watkinson c Commins b Mitchell	14
P A J DeFreitas b Pringle	6
N M K Smith not out	14
D Gough run out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 1)	7
Total (49.5 overs)	196

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-11, 3-13, 4-85, 5-129, 6-134, 7-153, 8-186, 9-196.
BOWLING: Pringle 10-1-34-4; Martyn 9.5-1-36-1; Cilliers 4-0-29-0; Mitchell 10-1-37-1; Rundle 10-2-27-2; Davids 6-0-27-1.

WESTERN PROVINCE

S G Koenig c and b Smith	24
D R Rundle c Thorpe b DeFreitas	15
H D Ackerman b Watkinson	21
*J B Commins c Gough b Watkinson	24
M W Pringle b Gough	0
H H Gibbs c Atherton b Reeve	5
F Davids not out	55
T J Mitchell b White	8
†P Kirsten not out	32
Extras (lb 7, w 6, nb 3)	16
Total (7 wkts, 49 overs)	200

A Cilliers and A Martyn did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-50, 3-91, 4-91, 5-97, 6-119, 7-132.
BOWLING: Gough 10-2-31-1; DeFreitas 10-2-37-1; White 10-1-42-1; Smith 6-1-16-1; Reeve 8-1-44-1; Watkinson 5-0-23-2
Man of the match: F Davids.
Umpires: N Bagus and R Brooks.

Resurgent Richardson leads West Indies to 14-run win

RICHIE RICHARDSON made a timely return to form in Brisbane yesterday, striking an outstanding 81 as West Indies beat Australia by 14 runs in their World Series Cup match at the Gabba.

The West Indies captain, who has struggled for runs so far on the tour, dominated the bowling in a vintage display of strokeplay that helped to lift his side to 231 all out from 49.3 overs.

In reply, Australia were dismissed for 217 with 14 balls remaining as Ottis Gibson claimed the wickets of Ian Healy and Craig McDermott with successive balls. Gibson was engulfed by jubilant team-mates after shattering McDermott's stumps to the dismay of a capacity crowd of 21,632. It was West Indies' third win in five days.

Gibson, who claimed two for 38 from 5.4 erratic overs, made an even more telling contribution with the bat, hammering 52 off 40 balls to ensure that West Indies capitalised on Richardson's two-hour innings.

Richardson eventually fell in the fortieth over when he drove a low catch to Michael Bevan in the covers to give Stuart Law his only wicket, but his resurgence in scoring his first half-century in seven World Series innings failed to mask an otherwise indisciplined display by the other West Indies top-order batsmen. Gibson rescued the innings by smashing two sixes and four fours before being bowled by Shane Lee.

Ricky Ponting and Stuart Law scored 61 and 62 respectively to lift Australia's hopes.



Muralitharan: no-balled

They added 115 runs for the fourth wicket before Ponting fell to a rash pull shot, lofting a simple catch to Roger Harper at mid-on off Ian Bishop. When Law was brilliantly caught and bowled by Phil Simmons nine overs later, Australia's hopes of victory faded.

"It is never easy to beat Australia, so you enjoy any victory against them," Richardson said. "I am not a person to celebrate until the end, and I don't want anyone to get carried away because we have still a lot of work to do to reach the World Series final."

Sri Lanka have called up Ruwan Kalpage, an all-rounder, to join the squad for the World Series Cup as a replacement for Muttiah Muralitharan, the off spinner at the centre of a controversy over throwing.

Muralitharan, who had not previously been called in 21 Tests before the tour, was no-balled seven times for throwing by Ross Emerson, the Australian umpire, in the one-day match against West Indies on Friday.

Ana Punchihewa, the president of the Sri Lanka Board of Control, has faxed the International Cricket Council (ICC) requesting a ruling on Muralitharan's action before the World Cup begins next month.

"We officially asked the ICC last night to appoint an independent panel to evaluate his action," Punchihewa said. "Once the ruling body makes the decision of the independent panel, we have to accept that."

Day Whatmore, the Sri Lanka coach, video-taped Muralitharan's action during their defeat on Friday and this will be submitted by the Sri Lankan management to the ICC.

Kalpage, who has taken 65 wickets and scored 768 runs in 70 one-day internationals, was omitted from the original 16-member tour party, but was included in a provisional squad of 18 for the World Cup in Sri Lanka. Pakistan and India. Muralitharan has also been included in the World Cup squad.

TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	5	4	1	8
West Indies	7	3	4	6
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	2

Scoreboard, page 33

New emphasis on coaching is first step to halting decline



John Woodcock sees little reason to believe that an England revival is imminent after another series defeat

Cape Town is full of disappointed, not to say disenchanted, English cricket supporters, many of them asking the same question. How much longer do they have to wait for a genuine revival in England's cricket fortunes?

To blame the umpiring for the defeat in the fifth Test match last week, and the consequent loss of the Test series to South Africa, is to hide from the truth. England were beaten by a better side. In bowling and fielding, South Africa were a long way ahead, and their batting was more solid than England's.

From the start of the series, I could never quite understand why so many experienced observers saw England as the likelier side. One of them, Jack Bannister, no less, finished by eating his own words on live television, washed down with a bottle of Chardonnay. Maybe they were beguiled by the captain's optimism. On the eve of the tour, Michael Atherton wrote: "The variety of our bowling attack is a major asset for us. We have, I believe, an attack suited to any kind of surface. We have pace bowlers, swing bowlers, nagging accuracy and spin. Importantly, we also have, in Cork, Gough and Ilott, excellent experts of reverse swing."

More meaningfully, I am afraid, England are desperately short of wicket-taking bowlers. Not even Alec Bedser, when he was the heart and marrow of the England attack, carried more of a burden than Dominic Cork does at the moment. Now that Malcolm's confidence is in shreds, Cork alone has the knack of making things happen.

It was just as much England's batting that failed them, though. The pitch at Newlands for the last Test match may not have been a particularly good one, but it was nothing like poor enough to explain England's totals of 153 and 157, even when some undoubtedly questionable umpiring decisions are taken into account. At Port Elizabeth, in the fourth Test match, they managed only 263 in their first innings on a pitch that gave no advantage to the South Africa bowlers, while in Johannesburg, in the second, a first innings total of 200 was the best England could do in reply to South Africa's 332.



Atherton: fine example

Nothing was more certain when South Africa returned to Test cricket than that what they lacked in experience and flair they would make up for in commitment; and that is just as it has been. I doubt whether they have quite the flexibility to win the forthcoming World Cup, and they may well have a job coping with the spinners when they go to India next winter; but at least they have, in Paul Adams, a spinner of their own now, who is more than just a token. Their faster attack is as good and disciplined as there is. There is no more explosive bowler in the world than Donald, and Pollock has the whip and suppleness of a young Brian Statham.

One's sympathy goes out to Atherton. It is by no means the most urbane of teams that he leads, but that, unfortunately, is a reflection of the times. No captain ever set a more resolute example at the crease or was deserving of better support. It is ridiculous, when he has such gifted players as Hick, Smith, Stewart and Thorpe at his side, that, unless he himself makes runs, England collapse. It is absurd, too, that when, in English cricket, there is such a wealth of material, England should be a poor sixth in the Test rankings.

We have now had, successively, the Peter May era, the Ted Dexter era and the Raymond Illingworth era, the last being much the most authoritarian of them. In their contrasting ways, these dedicated men have given their all to make England into a winning side again. More expenditure and more acquired knowledge never went into an England tour than this one, and yet, so far, there is not much to show for it.

Basically, all Illingworth asks is that his sides should make the best of themselves, which, unlike South Africa, they too seldom do. The fact that, of the 35 catches that South Africa held in the series just finished, 20 were taken at slip or gully and eight others at the wicket, when the ball never moved about a great deal, is an indictment of English batting technique.

In the reorganisation of English cricket that is now under way, coaching must be seen as being of much more importance than marketing — coaching that puts orthodoxy and self-expression on a par. It is time, too, for a switch to more open government and a more constructive contribution from the best of England's former players, so many of them now surveying the scene from their ivory electronic tower.



Cork: immense burden

If South Africa's victory helps towards the creation of a wider cricketing culture in their incredible country, that will be wonderful. At the moment, it is still very much a white man's game. On Christmas Day, I walked along a beach in Cape Province with such an expanse of flat sand that it could have accommodated every imaginable game. There must have been 5,000 people on it, virtually all non-white and a great many of them playing with a ball of some kind. In all that multitude, I spotted only two small black boys playing cricket.

Adams, however, took to Test cricket like a duckling to water. In a kind of way, he lifted the veil off it. He twinkled while he spun and there is all too little of both in the modern game. When he came in last in South Africa's first innings, cheered to the echo but looking vulnerably young, he had faced only 16 balls and scored four runs in first-class cricket; but, when Cork gave him a glare after bowling him a bouncer, Adams responded with a wink. When, eventually, the first African, as distinct from Cape Coloured, wins a Test cap, it will be of even greater sociological significance, but it could never be more disarmingly accomplished.

Pakistan glide past traditional rivals

FROM MEL WEBB IN SHARJAH

BILL SHANKLY, it was, who said that football was not a matter of life or death — it was much more important than that. Cricket matches between India and Pakistan fall firmly into the same category, at least as far as Indians and Pakistanis are concerned, and it does not matter if the combatants are 15 or 50.

In this case, before they even set foot on the field, most of the players were pretty close to their half-centuries — years, that is, not runs. The latest incarnation of the India-Pakistan rivalry was the third match of the World Masters Cricket series yesterday, and the Pakistan over-35s did not so much defeat as annihilate their old foes.

The margin was seven wickets with eight balls to spare, but the victory was more comprehensive than that. It left India, strongly-fancied before the tournament, bottom of the four-team table, having lost both of their matches.

The years have treated some of the players here well, others slightly less so, but what has not changed is the enchanting felicity with which they play their cricket. Mudassar Nazar, the Pakistan opener, was all glides and flicks and effortless driving in an undefeated 107; Sadiq Mohammed, with whom he put on 112 for the first wicket, the same quixotic exploiter of anything the slightest bit loose.

Sadiq, at 50, jointly the oldest man in the tournament, was run out one run short of his half-century, and India could be grateful for Nayak's throw from deep square leg, because they did not look likely to get rid of him any other way. Zaheer Abbas and Salim Yousuf, the other Pakistanis to lose their wickets, were also run out; it was not a good day to be an India bowler.

Pakistan bowled tightly and fielded well enough until they dropped three catches in seven balls near the end of the India innings. They may not get away with such extravagance when they play West Indies on Wednesday.

SCORES: Yesterday: India 215-5 (M Amarnath 62, S M Gavaskar 43), Pakistan 218-3 (Mudassar Nazar 107 not out, Sadiq Mohammad 46) Pakistan won by 7 wkts. Saturday: West Indies 202 (C L King 41; S Patil 4-46, S Nayak 3-29); India 195-6 (Gavaskar 87, Amarnath 57; A I Kallicharran 3-35). West Indies won by 7 runs.

Lara renews interest in England

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LARA may be ready to return to English cricket. Only three months after declining Warwickshire's offer of a three-year contract, the record-breaking West Indies batsman announced in Trinidad that he will listen to further offers.

"I have recharged my batteries and I'm feeling really keen and enthusiastic," he said. "If a really good offer came in from an English county, I'd be delighted to consider it." Lara refused to go on the West Indies tour of Australia in a protest against a fine imposed on him during the tour of England last year. He returned to first-class cricket for Trinidad and Tobago in the Red Stripe Cup this weekend.

The Pakistan selectors, who met in Karachi yesterday to pick the squad for the forthcoming World Cup, have delayed the decision until Friday, officials said. Zafar Altaf, who chaired the meeting, gave no reason beyond saying that the selectors wanted to watch players who were playing in the Wills Cup domestic tournament.

The delay is understood to be over differences on the possible inclusion of Javed Miandad, the former captain, in the national side.

An opening partnership of 213 between Robert Lawson (113 not out) and Matthew Bell (83) dominated the second day of the Zimbabweans' three-day match against the New Zealand Academy XI in Whangarei yesterday. The Academy XI declared on 213 for one and the Zimbabweans extended their 61-run first-innings lead by reaching 80 for one at the close.

هكذا من الأصل

Aggressive Faldo sets out to rein in leader

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SAN DIEGO

NICK FALDO'S new attitude faced a tough examination as he entered the final round of the Mercedes Championship of Golf on another gloriously sunny day at the luxurious La Costa resort here yesterday.

He has abandoned the countless swing thoughts, which prompted hesitancy, and has instead adopted a policy of pure aggression in an effort to erase frustrations caused by his relatively poor showing in 1995, when he failed to make an impact in the four major championships.

Faldo needed to summon every ounce of aggression he could muster if he was to catch the leader, the 38-year-old American Mark O'Meara, who led him by four strokes and was armed with the knowledge that he got the better of the British player when they came down the closing stretch together in the Honda Classic last March. "That was a great battle and I am expecting another today," Faldo said before completing a punishing spell on the practice range, where he concentrated mainly on his short game.

"Mark is playing exceptionally well," Faldo added. "But I have had a very encouraging week and whatever the outcome, it has been a successful start to my new year."

Faldo has pinpointed improving his approach shots, from a nine-iron down, as the key to adding to his five major championships. He spent an hour yesterday on "distance work practice" where he strings a row of baskets on the range at distances between 30 and 70 yards.

"My goal is to improve that part of my game because when I had my best years, in 1990 and 1992, every time I had a short club in my hand I was dancing around the hole," he said. "I have got to recapture that form. I didn't have it when the majors began last year and I struggled."

The most refreshing aspect of Faldo's new mental approach is that he is now concentrating solely on getting the ball close, rather than the technicalities of his swing. "That's been another difference. I realised there was nothing much wrong with my swing, I just needed to attack the hole more often.

"Let's be honest, I am 38 and getting older. I want to win more major titles, that is always my goal, and I have nothing to lose. I will try to birdie every hole today. I know that's impossible but that's the attitude I must take out there with me if I'm going to stand a chance."

O'Meara, who brought his haul of tour titles to ten last year, when he had two victories, had six birdies in a flawless third round of 66, which left him 13 under par on 203. Faldo collected five birdies in a 68 to continue his steady improvement, after opening with 70 and 69.

Faldo's last victory came in the Doral Open in March and he was forced into second place a week later by O'Meara, who wisely refused to believe that his four-shot cushion was sufficient to guarantee an easy ride to victory and a $180,000 prize.

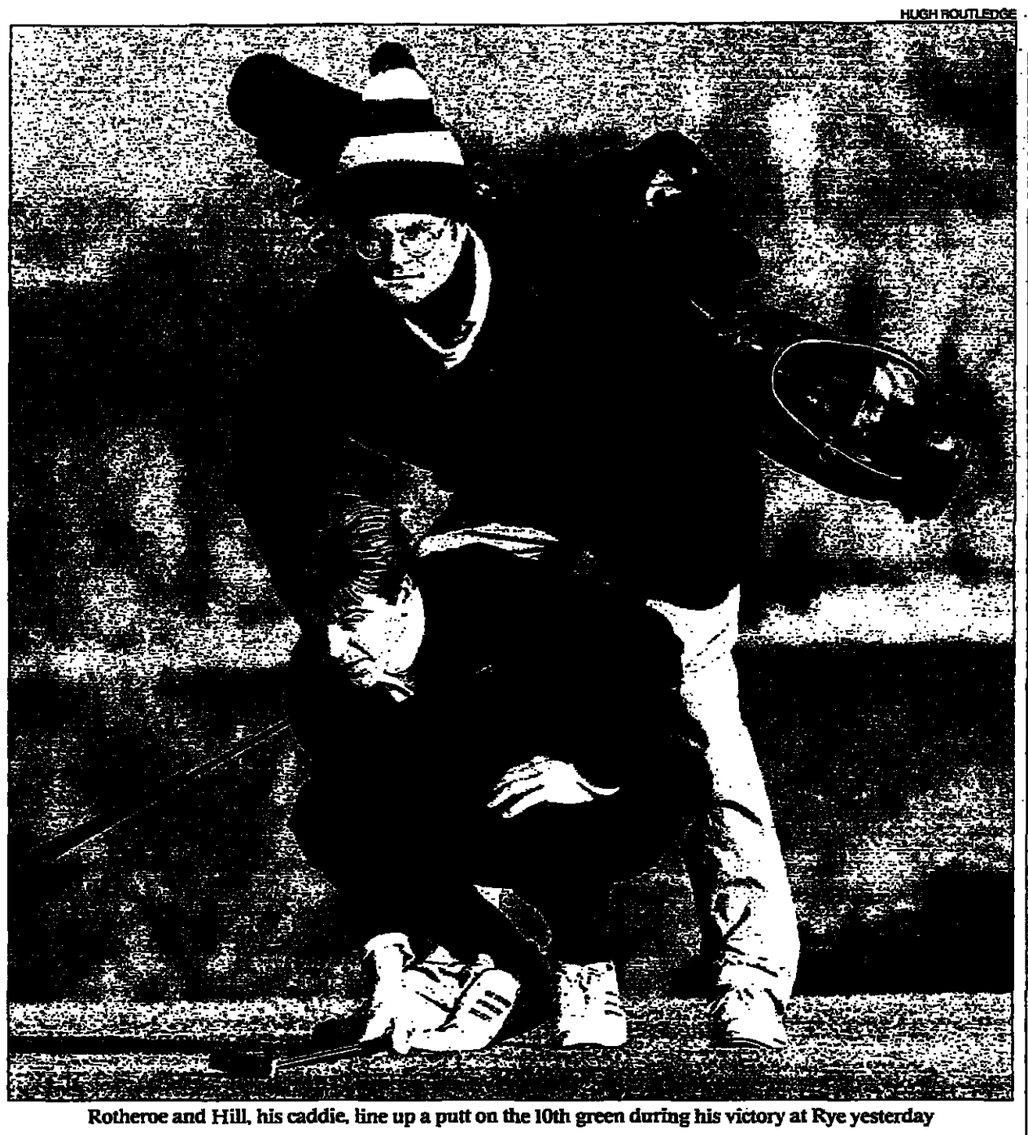
"When I beat Nick at the Honda, 70 per cent of the gallery was pulling for him even though we were playing in my home state of Florida," he said. "Americans love a winner — and that's exactly what he is. When I look at Nick Faldo, I see one of the toughest competitors out here."

Faldo, who will take a three-week break and return to his Florida base for more practice after this event, was a stroke ahead of the American quartet of Corey Pavin, Jim Gallagher, Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen.

John Daly shot his eighth successive round above par, a one-over 73, that left him on 224. The Open champion said he was unwell, and doubted he would play in the Tucson Open starting on Thursday.

Scores 33

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Rotheroe and Hill, his caddie, line up a putt on the 10th green during his victory at Rye yesterday

Rotheroe displays presidential style

BY JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE are not many all-rounders as good as Charlie Rotheroe. Golf, squash and real tennis come easily to this genial 28-year-old. Rotheroe, who works in the City and plays his golf at The Berkshire, is a flashback to another era.

The night before final qualifying for the 1990 Open championship, Rotheroe went Scottish dancing and opened up the next morning with eight birdies in 14 holes. In the Mid-Amateur over the New Course at Sunningdale last year he was the third-best qualifier of the 64. In a few weeks, he flies to the United States to compete in a real tennis tournament.

Yesterday, he won the President's Putter, beating Neil Pabari at the 20th as light was fading and senior members of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society were discussing what to do if darkness stopped play. The shot that won it for Rotheroe was a four-iron that flew like an arrow at the flag of the second extra hole. Pabari, the Oxford captain this year, was in a bunker to the right of the green from the tee and had taken three strokes before Rotheroe stroked in his putt for victory. It was somehow appropriate for such a gifted player as Rotheroe that it should come at his first attempt.

Up to then, the two men had done their best to give it away — albeit while moving at an admirable clip that saw them play 20 holes in 195 minutes. Rotheroe, who had squeaked home against Chris Dale on the first extra hole of his morning semi-final, was three up after four holes, one down after the 12th, one up after the 17th.

Twice over the closing holes Pabari's anxiousness caused him to miss short putts. On the 14th, one of less than three feet was struck too hard and reared away from the hole. That would have put him two up. On the 16th he pulled a more difficult putt, this one of three feet. However, he had the satisfaction of holing a courageous ten-footer on the 18th after a wonderful six-iron from deep in a crater on the right of the fairway.

Anyone who seriously doubted the enduring appeal of this ancient event — and there are plenty from within the ranks of golfers who did not attend the universities of Oxford and Cambridge — needed only to be at Rye yesterday. On a day when the attractions of home and hearth were considerable, a gallery of at least 300 gathered to exercise their dogs and watch the golf. National championships have been won and lost in front of fewer spectators.

Phil Hill, Rotheroe's caddie, has an unusual claim to fame. A bespectacled mathematician, he was the runner-up to Steve Seman in the 1994 final and then caddied for Andy Woolnough, the winner in 1995. Some of Oxford and Cambridge's greatest brains will be at work trying to discover whether such a treble has been achieved before.

Results, page 33

Green Bay send the champions packing

THE GREEN Bay Packers ended the reign of the San Francisco 49ers as National Football League champions yesterday, winning 27-17 in a National Football Conference play-off game. Brett Favre, the Green Bay quarterback, completed 21 of 28 passes for 299 yards as his side moved to within one game of the Super Bowl for the first time since 1967. The Packers will face the winners of last night's game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC championship game next weekend. It was the first time the 49ers had lost in the play-offs since 1988.

Bam Morris ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns, and Norm Johnson kicked four field goals to lead Pittsburgh Steelers to a 40-21 victory over Buffalo Bills in an American Football Conference play-off game. The Steelers will now play the winner of last night's match between Indianapolis and Kansas City.

World record for Han

SWIMMING: Han Xue, a Chinese teenager, shrugged off the disappointment of an earlier disqualification to set a world record of 31.11sec in the women's 50 metres breaststroke at the World Cup short-course meeting in Hong Kong yesterday. Xue, 14, making only her second international appearance, was disqualified in the 100 metres freestyle heat for wobbling on the blocks, but bounced back to win the breaststroke final. Han, based in Peking, shaved 0.08sec from the previous best of 31.19sec and was followed home by Jamie King, of Great Britain.

Faizy prevails

SQUASH: Tracey Shenton, from Staffordshire, maintained a lone domestic presence among the Commercial Union British Junior Open titles settled at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield over the weekend by defeating Janie Thacker, of Yorkshire, 5-9, 9-5, 10-8, 5-9, 9-3 in a 63-minute under-19 final. The most prestigious junior trophy in the game, the Drysdale Cup, however, went overseas when Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, defeated Marcus Cowie, from Norfolk, 9-3, 7-9, 4-9, 9-3, 9-4 in the boy's under-19 final.

Cardiff consolidate lead

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils strengthened their position at the head of the premier division by defeating Fife Flyers 9-1, with Doug McEwen, Steve Moria and Randy Smith each scoring twice, while the two teams immediately below them, Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers, had to settle for a share of the spoils in a 3-3 draw. Chris Kelland's 45th-minute goal, which gave Sheffield a 3-2 lead, looked likely to be the winner but Garth Premak scored with just 39sec remaining to salvage a point for the home team.

Painful exit for Rosset



TENNIS: The Hopman Cup team championship ended with Marc Rosset, right, in hospital and Martina Hingis in tears as Croatia celebrated a bizarre victory. Rosset injured his hand punching a board after the Swiss team wasted four championship points in the final set of the decisive mixed doubles. He played two more points before the pain forced him to forfeit.

Radcliffe storms home

ATHLETICS: Paula Radcliffe added to her growing reputation by winning the Coca-Cola international cross-country race in Mallusk on Saturday. The Bedford runner, who last week took the Durham international title, covered the 4.8-kilometre course in 16min 02sec in a howling gale. She pulled away from Rose Cheruiyot, of Kenya, 800 metres from home after the pair had left the rest of the field trailing.

Johnson foiled

FENCING: Sam Johnson, 18, from the Sussex House club in London, took third place for Great Britain in the Budapest round of the junior (under-20) World Cup event at the weekend, losing 15-11 to Lorenzo Mammi, of Italy, the eventual winner. Paul Walsh, the British senior champion, finished thirteenth, but moved up to fifth in the world under-20 rankings.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most duplicate players use "negative" doubles. That is to say, when their partner opens with one of a suit and the opponents intervene in another suit, a double is not penalty but shows the ability to compete further. The strength of the doubler's hand is unlimited, but he will not have a good suit of his own.

One consequence of this is that, if a player does have a penalty double, the only way that a partnership can catch the opposition is for the player over the bidder to pass and hope that his partner can re-open the bidding with a take-out double. Here is an example from the BBL Premier League.

Dealer North **North - South vulnerable** **IMPs**

	♠9874 ♥86 ♦Q3 ♣J10875	
♠AKQ2 ♥QJ54 ♦K962 ♣A	N W E S	♠J1065 ♥K ♦A85 ♣KQ432
	♠3 ♥A109732 ♦J1074 ♣96	

W	N	E	S
—	Pass	1 C	2 H
Pass	Pass	Double	All pass

Contract: Two Hearts doubled, by South — Lead: Ace of Clubs

This was the auction at two tables. West's Pass of South's weak jump overcall was the only way that he could arrange to play in Two Hearts Doubled. If you play this method, it is obligatory for the opener to bid again if it is passed back to him and he is short in the suit bid on his left.

Nevertheless, West's first-round Pass looks alarming to me — what if East had been dealt an extra heart and one less diamond? Then, he would also pass Two Hearts and East - West would look foolish, with Six Spades on their way.

Against Senior and myself, South bid only One Heart. After Senior bid One Spade and heard support from me, he made several slam tries. However, I was too nervous of my overall weakness and poor trumps and Senior was worried about heart losers, so we eventually subsided in Five Spades. Not as good as getting 800 out of Two Hearts doubled (or even 500 from One Heart doubled).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Triple tie

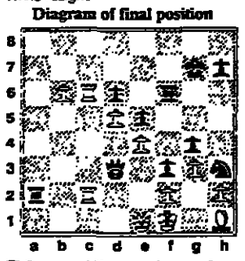
The Hastings Premier tournament has ended in a triple tie for first prize between Stuart Conquest, the British grandmaster, Bogdan Lalic, the former Yugoslav grandmaster, and grandmaster Alexander Khalifman, who now represents Germany. In the last round, all games were drawn, apart from the clash between Matthew Sadler, the British champion, and Conquest. The latter took his life in his hands, inviting a complex position in which both players became extremely short of time. Conquest's boldness was rewarded with a career-best final performance.

White: Matthew Sadler
Black: Stuart Conquest
Hastings Premier, January 1996
Keres Defence

1	d4	e6
2	c4	Bb4+
3	Bd2	a5
4	Nf3	c6
5	g3	Nc6
6	Bg2	e5
7	d5	Bxd2+
8	Nfxd2	Nb8
9	Nc3	Nd7
10	a3	f5
11	b4	Nh6
12	0-0	0-0
13	Rc1	b6
14	Nb5	Ba6
15	Qc2	Rf7
16	bxa5	bxa5
17	a4	g5
18	Nb3	f4
19	Qd2	g4
20	Rc2	Kh8
21	e4	Rf6
22	Nxa5	Bxb5
23	cxb5	f3
24	Bh1	Nf7
25	Nb7	Qb8
26	Rfc1	Rxa4
27	Rxc7	Nb6
28	Na5	Qa8
29	R7c5	Qa7
30	Qe3	Qxa5
31	Rxb6	Ra2
32	Rb8+	Kg7
33	Qe1	Qa7
34	Rbc8	Ra2
35	R8c6	Qd4
36	b6	Ng5
37	R1c2	Nh3+
38	Kf1	Qd3+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Hastings Centenary Tournament

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	Conquest	*	0	0	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	5½
2	Lalic	1	*	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	5½
3	Khalifman	1	½	*	½	½	½	0	1	½	1	5½
4	Yermolinsky	½	½	½	*	½	0	½	½	1	1	5
5	Miles	0	0	½	½	*	1	1	½	1	½	5
6	Speelman	1	½	½	1	0	*	½	0	½	½	4½
7	Sadler	0	½	1	½	0	½	*	½	½	1	4½
8	Azalik	0	½	0	½	½	1	½	*	½	½	4
9	Hodgson	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	*	½	3
10	Luther	0	½	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	*	2½

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ATAXY
a. The Macedonian cavalry
b. Awkwardness
c. Excused taxation

SAPID
a. The wild pea
b. Vapid
c. Lively

AILUROPHILE
a. A cat-lover
b. Collector of beer-mats
c. Liking garlic

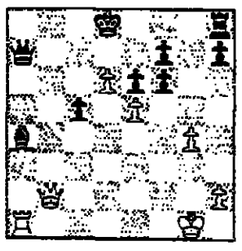
RUDERAL
a. Thriving in rubbish
b. Indecent
c. To do with steering

Answers on page 35

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is a variation from the game Plaskett — Mestel, Hastings Premier, 1986. James Plaskett, a former British champion, is a very dangerous attacking player and this position is an excellent example. White to play and win.



Solution on page 35

Final hope of glory for Paci

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

STEVE PACI will be in the unusual position next Saturday of attempting to help Worthing Bears lift the 7-Up Trophy for the first time, knowing that no matter how well he plays, it will almost certainly be his last game for the club.

By contributing only a single basket — with a dunk — to Worthing's 93-88 Budweiser League victory over their Trophy final opponents, London Towers, on Saturday the 26-year-old American illustrated only too well how badly his first season in England has gone wrong.

Explaining why the decision had been made to cut Paci — replacing him with the 6ft 8in Californian, Tim Garrett, who is ineligible for next Saturday — Colin Irish, Worthing's player/coach, said: "Steve was not hitting the big baskets when we needed them but you've got to give him respect. He has continued to give 110 per cent even though he knew the writing was on the wall."

While Paci continued to struggle on Saturday, Irish maintained his form, collecting 31 points to push the league leaders to their first defeat in 11 games.

London trailed for most of the game. Only when Tony Windless and Andy Gardiner came up with baskets in the last quarter did the Towers twice lead briefly. Windless finished with 29 points, Gardiner with 18 but it was Irish who found invaluable support from Steve Nelson, who accumulated 24 points and Alan Cunningham and Derrick Plair, who hit 15 apiece.

Chester Jets, who have also replaced an American, Kareem Allen, with another, Billy Singleton, reaped the benefit with successive wins. Following up their 104-100 over-time success over Birmingham Bullets, they won 87-75 at Leicester City Riders, although Singleton's tally of 22 points was upstaged by his compatriot Waymon Boone's 36.

Tomba's charge to victory

ALBERTO Tomba produced a characteristic second-run charge to win the World Cup slalom skiing race in Flachau, Austria, yesterday, his third success of the season. Fourth fastest after the first run, Tomba, of Italy, stormed down the piste, his time of 1min 41.05sec good enough to beat Mario Reiter, of Austria, and Jure Kosir, of Slovenia.

It was the second time over the weekend that Tomba had shown his skills in an inspired second run. On Saturday, he had come back from sixth to take second place in the giant slalom, a surprise result he hailed as good as a victory despite being beaten by Urs Kaelin, the Swiss, the last man down the hill. It was Kaelin's first World Cup victory in seven years.

Kristina Andersson won her first World Cup race yesterday in Maribor, Slovenia, taking the slalom honours when her Swedish teammate, Pernilla Wiberg, crashed. Andersson, 30, edged out Elfi Eder, of Austria, by six hundredths of a second. Claudia Riegler, the Austrian born skier representing New Zealand, was third.

Katja Seizinger, the Olympic downhill champion, ended a run of wins by her German team-mate, Martina Ertl, by winning the giant slalom in the Slovenian resort on Saturday. Seizinger's time of 2min 14.30sec put her ahead of Sonja Nef, of Switzerland, and Ertl.

Jens Weissflog, the German veteran ski-jumper, had two perfect leaps on Saturday to win the Four Hills tournament for a record fourth time in Bischofshofen, Austria. Weissflog, 31, had jumps of 126.5 metres and 122.5 metres to finish 14 points ahead of Norway's Espen Bredesen and Finland's Ari-Pekka Nikola.

Weissflog was delighted, particularly as he has said this will be his last season. He confirmed yesterday that Saturday's victory would not tempt him to change his decision to retire in the Spring.

Results, page 33

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort		Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	20	70	fair	heavy	art	fine	-1	31/12
(Hard-packed snow with some worn/icy patches)								
Lech	50	90	good	varied	fair	cloud	1	3/1
(Many runs in good shape but icy at lowest altitudes)								
Obergurgl	80	110	good	varied	good	cloud	0	3/1
(Very good skiing on most pistes; no queues)								
FRANCE								
Flaine	35	145	good	varied	good	snow	0	7/1
(Fresh snow at all levels though wet low down)								
Tignes	90	135	good	powder	good	snow	-2	7/1
(Plenty of fresh snow at all altitudes)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	40	250	good	powder	good	cloud	-1	7/1
(Excellent snow but flat light; sunshine expected)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	45	60	good	fair	fair	snow	0	7/1
(Pistes freshened with new snow)								
Villars	20	100	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	7/1
(Plenty of good skiing on pistes; fresh snow)								
Wengen	45	65	good	heavy	fair	cloud	3	7/1
(New snow covering up the worn patches)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
0891 333 568
24hr skiing information direct from the resorts in:
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND • ITALY
REST OF EUROPE • N. AMERICA/CANADA
SPAIN/ANDORRA • ROMANIA/BULGARIA
Or for a faxed report, dial:
0891 662 258
from a telephone linked to a fax machine
WEATHERLINE 0891 333 462
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead
SKI CLUB
Up-to-date information on all Scottish ski resorts
0891 200 627

Bath's first defeat should not herald pragmatic approach



A forward thrust by Robinson, the Leicester centre, is halted by the intervention of Catt as Guscott, left, waits to reinforce the defensive shield. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Entertainers must let the show go on

Bath.....14
Leicester.....15

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH'S response to their first Courage Clubs Championship defeat of the season will not only be instructive but also vital for the wellbeing of the domestic game. Will they continue to strive for the "total-rugby" that has been their creed all season or retreat into a more pragmatic shell intent on defending their two-point advantage at the top of the first division?

If Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, has his way, there will be no backward movement. He has not spent half a season building a side that, before Saturday, had averaged 46 points a match at home in the league, only to abandon his philosophy after defeat by the champions.

The English game, moreover, needs Bath to set the example that winning rugby can also be entertaining. Wasps, Sale, perhaps Harlequins, and occasionally Leicester send the same messagem but Bath do it better than anyone. They will know, too — and if they do not, Ashton will tell them — that they contributed to their own downfall by departing from the game that they had trained to play.

"We weren't going to play a lineout and scrummaging game, we were going to kick high and chase, mix in a few chips," John Hall, their director of rugby, said, "but we played it long, and badly, and played into their hands. Against Northampton before Christmas, we adapted to the conditions. This time, we didn't, Leicester's defence is well-organised and we ran out of options."

It was not quite that straightforward. As the weather deteriorated — by the end, rain was lashing down, the wind blowing strongly towards the clubhouse and the surface cutting up badly — so Leicester's strength in the maul came into its own. Bath lack a controller at half back, one who can ensure that the game is played in the opposing half and offer their creative midfield realistic opportunities. That can be done by perceptive passing or tactical kicking, and the conditions militated against the first and Catt was not equal to the second.

Perhaps Bath were so encouraged by the opening period that they failed to identify the need to adapt. Within 34 seconds, they had outflanked the defence and Adebayo, Leicester's nemesis in the league meeting at Welford Road in September, had scored.

Magnificent continuity, quick rucking, and deft handling paved the way to Callard's first penalty goal and, within five minutes, Bath were eight points ahead. Leicester were chasing shadows; but with a mixture of straightforward confrontation and skilful forward play — streetwise, Hall called them — they put a clamp on Bath's ambition.

Central to their efforts were two England men, Richards and Johnson, the former discarded, the latter now a world-class forward. Johnson was spoken to twice by Brian Campsall, the referee, who also lectured both packs, both front rows and showed Garforth a yellow card for dangerous play at a maul. The brunt of his message was that both teams had a duty not only to themselves but also to spectators; to their credit, the players responded.

Indeed, Campsall, who will handle the Ireland v Scotland game on January 20, won praise from Tony Russ, the Leicester director of rugby, for his authority. Though neither club felt that it was an unblemished match — Hall worried about Leicester's behaviour at tapped penalties, Russ at scrummage rulings — the problems implicit whenever these clubs meet were acknowledged.

"You have the two best teams in the country and a mighty physical confrontation," Russ said. "It's almost like a boxing match and it nearly got out of control, but Brian restrained it."

Johnson seems to have acquired the Richards knack of being where the ball is. He dominated the lineout, he led the tight forwards into the tackle and he came to control the restarts; thus possession trickled away from Bath, whose only reward when they had the blustering wind at their backs in the second half was the second of two penalty attempts by Callard.

The game was reduced to the Leicester pack against the Bath midfield, where de Glanville and Andy Robinson form so effective a link, and Leicester emerged deserved winners. Their back division is plain compared to the Bath glitterati, but their forwards knew precisely what they were about. With Liley to kick the goals, four in the first half and one in the second, they improved their league record against Bath to five wins in 12 encounters and gave the rest of the first division hope that the league title may yet be contested.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Adebayo. Penalty goals: Callard (3). Leicester: Penalty goals: Liley (5)
BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, P de Glanville, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, I Sanders; D Crompton, G Dawe, V Ubogu, S Ojomoh, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, B Clarke
LEICESTER: J Liley; W Kilford, R Robinson, P Delaney, R Underwood; J Hams, A Kardooni, G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards.
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire)

Saracens search abroad in pursuit of success

Saracens.....20
Wasps.....24

BY BRYAN STILES

SARACENS have taken a deep breath and are about to throw off the mantle as the makeweights in the top level of English rugby. With the first swish of the £2.5 million wand from their new backer, they are about to announce the identity of the overseas player whom they intend to put under contract.

This friendly club from the leafy north London suburb of Southgate is hoping to become the first English club to secure top foreign player now that rugby is entering its new open era. It is a bold step for an unpretentious club, whose attendance for this important Courage Clubs Championship match numbered little more than 3,000, even though it had festooned the area with posters describing the game as "The Crunch", to encourage the community to lend its support.

Saracens officials have spoken to Philippe Sella, the former France centre who is the most capped player in world rugby, and to Michael Lynagh, the Australia stand-off half, and negotiations are at a critical stage, but the club is refusing to say who its target is.

Nigel Wray, the club's rugby-besotted benefactor, who made his fortune through property dealing, is adamant, though, that Saracens teams will continue to be composed largely of players from the local community and announced that Anthony Diprose and Richard Hill had signed three-year contracts.

Saracens showed in this match that they need only a few more players of high quality to convert them from also-rans into contenders. They made Wasps groggy, particularly in the second half, and, if Lee had capitalised on more of the penalty chances that



Damian Hopley: set up his brother, Phil

came his way when Wasps were under the cosh and being enticed offside, Saracens would have secured a victory to set alongside the one that they achieved against Leicester, the champions, in November.

Defeat keeps them anchored near the bottom of the table, above Gloucester and West Hartlepool, and enables Wasps to keep up their challenge at least to secure a position in the top four and collect a place in the new European Cup.

Wasps had built up a comfortable 21-9 lead by the interval and looked as though they would coast to victory. A splendid break by Damian Hopley set up a try for his brother, Phil, a charge up the middle by Scrivener put in Gomarsall and a penalty try, awarded when Saracens collapsed a scrum, looked like the prelude to an even richer haul, but Saracens, who had collected three first-half penalty goals from Lee, fought back.

Lee picked up two more penalty goals and Tunningley raced in for a try. Lee failed with the conversion that would have brought the scores level and a relieved Wasps team swept back upfield for Gregory to wipe out the last resistance with a penalty goal.

SCORERS: Saracens: Try: Tunningley. Penalty goals: Lee (5). Wasps: Tries: P Hopley, Gomarsall, penalty try. Conversions: Gregory (3). Penalty goal: Gregory.
SARACENS: A Tunningley; M Gregory, J Buckton, S Ravarascroft, P Harries, A Lee, B Davies; R Andrews, C Olney, S Wilson, D Phillips, M Langley, C Yandell, R Hill, A Diprose, K Chesney temporary replacement for Gregory (13-24min).
WASPS: J Utton; P Hopley, D Hopley, L Seresse, M Griffiths; G Gregory, A Gomarsall; D Molloy, K Dunn, I Dunston, M White, M Greenwood, R Kinsey, L Dallaglio, P Scrivener.
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Neath try to place emphasis on plan of attack

Newbridge.....3
Neath.....20

BY GERALD DAVIES

BY THE end of the season, the number of tries that a team scores may have a decisive bearing on the destiny of the Heineken League. Thus, in a Welsh championship that is more open than it has been in any time since leagues began, in 1990, Neath moved up to second place in the first division on Saturday, locked with Llanelli on 34 points but a hair's breadth ahead because of their superior try count. Indeed, with 55 tries from 14 games, this is more than Cardiff, who are on top, and is bettered only by Swansea, who have 57.

Much has been said about the extra points that a team gains from scoring tries. It is far from ideal in its present form — the three points that a team can get for scoring seven tries is greater than the points gained for a win — and some argue that any such system, because of its inevitable artificiality, may not ultimately be in the best interest of the Welsh game. It may create a false sense of tactical priorities.

Perhaps not. Scoring a try gives the highest scoring potential and to get into the habit of doing so can be no bad thing. In consequence, matches in Wales this season have been more purposeful and imaginative than in recent years.

On Saturday, in miserably difficult conditions, Neath and Newbridge provided a match of exciting movement, more than the spectators had any right to expect. Having already scored the three tries that had earned them the extra bonus point, Neath did not sit on their laurels and went in search of more, only to be denied by a resilient Newbridge, who, when playing into the wind in the second



Gareth Llewellyn: set up Neath's first try

half, found that defence can be turned into attack.

Neath's two second-half tries were the highlights. Both came within three minutes of the interval. Having played a containing game for the first 40 minutes, Neath succeeded in staying level at the halfway stage, Strange and Hogan kicking a penalty goal each. At the first lineout of the second half, after 40 seconds, on the Newbridge ten-metre line, Gareth Llewellyn tapped the ball to his scrum half. Hogan passed to Robin Jones, who was gathering momentum from a deep position. By the time that the home team recovered, Jones was close to their line and, when held, passed inside to Glyn Llewellyn, who scored.

Immediately from the kick-off, Richard Jones's long diagonal kick established the position for the next lineout. Neath did not win possession cleanly, but John Davies cleaned up, drove hard for the line and, when tackled, held the ball for Glyn Llewellyn, again, to score.

Newbridge responded positively, but, for all their good approach work, they could not score and it was Hogan who had the final word, with a try from the blind side of a maul.

SCORERS: Newbridge: Penalty goal: Strange. Neath: Tries: Glyn Llewellyn (2), Hogan. Conversion: Hogan Penalty goal: Hogan
NEWBRIDGE: M Silva; S Reed, J Hawker, L Jones, S Marshall; J Strange, R Smith; R Buckley, L Phillips, P Sedgemore, J Derrick, P Kawulok, D Dunn, I Jones, A Gibbs. Buckley replaced by G Weir (Newcastle, 65min); C Chalmers temporary replacement for Jardine.
Referee: G Simmonds (Wales).
NEATH: R Jones, C Higgs, L Davies, H Woodland, R Wintle; P Williams, P Hogan; D Morris, G Williams, J Davies, R Jones, Gareth Llewellyn (capt), Glyn Llewellyn, S Williams, I Boobyer Jones replaced by J Burnell (75)
Referee: W D Bevan (Clydach).

Stimpson miss so cruel

Gloucester.....17
West Hartlepool.....16

BY PETER BILLS

CHARACTER, one of the qualities that Jack Rowell, the England manager, so espouses in potential international players, was demonstrated in the cruellest circumstances at Kingsholm. In a Courage Clubs Championship first division match between the bottom two teams, West Hartlepool threw everything into a late attempt to overturn a 17-11 deficit.

Just 30 seconds of normal time remained when Stimpson, the full back, who had been an inspiration for West Hartlepool all afternoon, hit the line with a punishing run between outside centre and wing and surged over in the left corner. He then forced his way to within five yards of the posts before touching down, making the conversion a virtual formality. Gloucester's heads hung in dismay at the impending defeat only for Stimpson to send the conversion emphatically wide. It cost West the match and almost certainly their place in the first division.

Few players would have held their heads up after that, but Stimpson, as West's captain, had a congratulatory word for every Gloucester man and then boldly faced the media to discuss his *faux pas*. The manner in which he handled such dire adversity spoke volumes for Stimpson's character and make-up.

"That kick was a gimme and I have no excuses," Stimpson said. "Of course I should have got it, but I lifted my head a bit. Maybe I should have composed myself better. When I touched down, I thought about asking someone else to take the kick because the try had tired me: but you can't do that."

Stimpson could have been tried in England's pre-Christmas international against Western Samoa. Virtually everything that he did for 80 minutes at Kingsholm confirmed him as a highly talented player. His speed, strength and timing in joining the attack are all formidable. He is solid under the high ball and tackles firmly. His physical presence in joining the back line exposes most defences. It was tragic that he, of all people, should have been ultimately responsible for denying West their first league win of the season.

Tim Smith's three penalty goals kept Gloucester in touch until his departure with a knee ligament injury. Osborne added an important penalty goal and Beim scuttled over for a try. Shelley had scored on half-time to give West an 11-6 interval lead, but Gloucester were in control thereafter.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Try: Beim Penalty goals: T Smith (3), Osborne. West Hartlepool: Tries: Shelley, Stimpson. Penalty goals: Stimpson (2).
GLOUCESTER: T Smith; P Holford, M Roberts, D Caskie, T Beim; M Kimber, B Fenley; A Powles, P Greening, W Bullock, I Smith, D Sims, R West, P Glanville, P Miles. T Smith replaced by I Osborne (48min); L Beck temporary replacement for Fenley (53-55min).
WEST HARTLEPOOL: T Stimpson; O Evans, P Hodder, C Lee, A Blyth; A Parker, S Cook; P Beal, T Herbert, M Shelley, R Leach, P Evans, K Westgarth, A Brown, D Mitchell. D Lockey replaced Leach (72min); S Sparks temporary replacement for Beal (52-55min).
Referee: R Rees (London).

Full results and league tables ... Page 33

Harlequins eye Europe

Harlequins.....28
Bristol.....3

BY JOHN HOPKINS

IF THIS was a game to determine which of these clubs joins Bath and Leicester in European competition next season, then some lessons are clear immediately. The first is that all is not shipshape at Bristol. Their chances of finishing in the top four of the Courage Clubs Championship — and thereby gaining a place in the Heineken Cup — seem slim. The second is that Harlequins are beginning to deliver a decent dividend and can now be considered realistic contenders for Europe.

Indeed, it is about time, with regard to Harlequins. For months, they have blown hot and cold, enthrallingly attractive one minute, exasperatingly disappointing the next. Now, however, the hard-nosed approach of Dick Best and Keith Richardson appear to be winning the day. Harlequins fought like tigers, if Leicester will pardon the expression, to defeat Orrell away in the Pilkington Cup. The same doughtiness was on show again, this time at home, in the trouncing of Bristol.

Never was it better demonstrated than for 20 minutes after half-time, when Harlequins, leading 18-0, faced a series of Bristol attacks. The visitors came at them from all quarters, but when the storm abated, Harlequins had not conceded a try. It was defence of an heroic nature.

The only way that Bristol could score was by a dropped goal from Arwel Thomas, 21, the talented Welshman who may be named for Wales against Italy.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, was in the stand watching Thomas, and Jack Rowell, the England coach and manager, was also present, noting, no doubt, how Rob Kitchin outplayed Kyran Bracken. Kitchin, benefiting from an immense effort by his forwards, was everything that Bracken once was: quick-thinking, fast off the mark and always wanting to be involved. Three tries were no less than he deserved.

Harlequins' main problem is goalkicking, and in a close game it could be the difference between victory and defeat. Not one of their five tries was converted. In the absence of David Pears, they do not have a proper kicker. Chris Wright took and missed the first two penalty attempts and the last conversion. Will Carling kicked one penalty goal and missed two conversions before handing over to Paul Challinor, who missed two conversions.

"Harlequins are not the soft touch they used to be," Richardson said. "If we can stop our opponents scoring tries, then we are halfway towards winning. They had a hard, big pack. We did good work in stopping them driving forward and then playing the game we wanted to play.

"It is getting better all the time — and getting in to Europe is very, very important for us."

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: Watson, Bromley, Kitchin (3) Penalty goal: Carling
Bristol: Dropped goal: Thomas
HARLEQUINS: C Wright; S Hague, W Carling, W Greenwood, S Bromley; P Challinor, R Kitchin; J Leonard, S Mitchell, A Mullins, G Allison, A Snow, M Watson, R Jenkins, C Sheasby.
BRISTOL: P Hull; B Breeze, S Martin, K Maggs, G Sharp; A Thomas, K Bracken; A Sharp, M Regan, D Hinkins, P Adams, G Archer, M Corry, J Pearson, E Rollitt. Pearson replaced by R Armstrong (22 min)
Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire)

Scotland's plans cast into oblivion by Italian enterprise

Italy A.....29
Scotland A.....17

FROM MARK SOUSTER
IN RIETI

SCOTLAND, with the five nations' championship looming, suddenly find themselves back at square one. When the selectors meet tonight to pick the side to play Ireland on January 20, they will have to confront far more problems than they would have envisaged at such an important stage of the season.

The euphoria generated by success last year has evaporated, and after this debilitating, confidence-sapping defeat: issues such as where to find a reliable goal kicker, where to play Gregor Townsend and how to blend a more dynamic midfield remain high on the agenda.

While Italy offered a persuasive argument for inclusion in an expanded European tournament, Scotland were, in the words of Jim Telfer, their manager, slow and predictable. They were out-thought and out-fought and the try count of 4-1 in favour of Italy, two of them from tap penalties, did not flatter the home side. Scotland can point to seven missed penalty kicks, but Rowen Shepherd, who is the fourth-choice kicker at Melrose, should not be blamed; the selectors must shoulder responsibility. The problems, which in the past were papered over by Gavin Hastings and a collective passion, now run deep.

Telfer even raised the prospect of Scotland having to reassess their whole strategy. "We did not look threatening when we had the ball and we need to speed the game up," he said.

Scotland led 11-3 after half an hour through a try by Redpath and, if Shepherd had kicked his goals, then Scotland could have been well clear at that stage. Scotland still led, 11-10, at half-time, the Italians having scored a try by Visentin, converted by Dominguez who also added a penalty goal. The try emphasised the difference in approach between the sides. Scotland would have kicked for goal; Italy, prompted by Dominguez and Sgorlon, opted for adventure.

Two more penalty goals by Shepherd and one by Townsend kept Scotland in front after Gardner had repeated Visentin's feat.

Arancio put Italy ahead for the first time after 63 minutes, ending a move that had begun with Stuart Reid losing possession and suffering a damaged Achilles tendon. Italy scented victory, which was confirmed when Hastings and Logan muddled and Vaccari intercepted.

SCORERS: Italy A: Tries: Visentin, Gardner, Arancio, Vaccari. Conversions: Dominguez (3). Penalty goal: Dominguez. Scotland A: Try: Redpath Penalty goals: Shepherd (3), Townsend
ITALY A: M Ravazzolo (Calvisano), P Vaccari (Calvisano), T Visentin (Benetton Treviso), I Francescato (Benetton Treviso), F Roselli (Roma); D Dominguez (Milan), A Troncon (Milan); M Dalla (San Dona), C Orlandi (Milan), F Properzi (Milan), O Arancio (Amatori Catania), M Gardner (Benetton Treviso), P Pedroni (Milan), A Sgorlon (San Dona, captain), J Gardner (Benetton Treviso). Gardner replaced by G Favaro (Benetton Treviso, 54min)
SCOTLAND A: R Shepherd (Melrose); C Joiner (Melrose), S Hastings (Watsonians), I Jardine (Stirling County), K Logan (Stirling County); G Townsend (Northampton), B Redpath (Melrose); D Hilton (Bath), K McKenzie (Stirling County), P Wright (Boroughmuir), S Reid (Boroughmuir), S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), S Campbell (Dundee HSFP), R Wainwright (Watsonians, captain), E Peters (Bath). Reid replaced by G Weir (Newcastle, 65min); C Chalmers temporary replacement for Jardine.
Referee: G Simmonds (Wales).

☐ Earlier, Scotland Under-21 won away from home for the first time since 1986 when they beat Italy 31-10. Steven Reed scored two tries.

Problems for Ireland

IRELAND'S week-long training camp in Atlanta concluded with a hard-fought 25-18 victory over the American Eagles on Saturday (David Hands writes). There will be debate over the stand-off half and tight-head prop when the selectors meet tomorrow night to choose the team to play Scotland.

Paul Burke was stand-off in the win against Fiji in November and Eric Elwood had his opportunity in a rain-drenched Life College stadium. He kicked three penalty goals and a conversion before injury forced him off, Burke replacing him to kick three penalty goals. Peter Clohessy will come in to contention at prop but Murray Kidd, the coach, was heartened by the contribution of the senior forwards. Ireland's only try, scored by Richard Wallace, came just before half-time.

صكذا من الأصل

Holders sweep through to final

Regal Wigan stay on course for eighth cup success

Wigan 38
Leeds 18

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS A tipster lamented at the weekend, Wigan have removed any fun from rugby league betting, yet Shaun Edwards, their captain, insisted that his team will go into the Regal Trophy final against St Helens on Saturday as underdogs.

Statistics, as Edwards knows, can always be twisted to fit. The 80 points put past Warrington in their semi-final can, on one hand, make St Helens favourites, but the 110 points that they have conceded to Wigan in two meetings already this season point to the holders retaining yet another piece of silverware.

On the other side of the Central Park fence on Saturday, Dean Bell was witness to his former club's mockery of Leeds, Wigan having less possession but doing everything right with it. "How can you bet against them in the final?" the Leeds coach asked.

Bell believes this latest rout by Wigan, the first Leeds have suffered under his charge, will give more incentive to his club bridging the gap, if such an object lesson was necessary. In between the opening and closing quarters, when the sides were at touching distance, Leeds plunged down the chasm in depressingly familiar style.

The sin-binning of Gary Connolly, for a professional foul, softened their landing. With the removal of one of their main tormentors, Leeds recovered some pride with three of four second-half tries, by Mann, who got two, and the tireless Morley, although it would be foolish to suggest that a late scoring spree showed anything more than that the Yorkshire side refused to throw in the towel, Warrington fashion.



Edwards: mastery

In the short term, there seems no denying Wigan, and probably the long term as well. When they did wobble, in a defeat away to Oldham before Christmas, their players got together behind closed doors and set the targets of a seventh successive championship, which is already unofficially theirs, and a record eighth Regal Trophy, now beckoning at Huddersfield.

Although successful in recent league outings, the Schofield-Mann axis at half back for Leeds was unhinged by the vision and mastery at scrum half of Edwards. Alongside Edwards, Paul led Mann a merry dance, but was beaten to the man-of-the-match award by Martin Hall, who bewitched the entire Leeds defence in a dazzling contribution from dummy half.

Hall, who has a contract with the Australian Rugby League (ARL), has also signed up for the first Super League season at Wigan. Who is to say that Connolly and Jason Robinson, others with supposed future commitments to the ARL, might not now follow suit?

Had Leeds kept to an error-free game-plan for longer than 20 minutes, they might have stood a chance. Two chinks in the visitors' armour were all that Wigan needed. When McDermott fumbled a straightforward pass, Hall was up on Edwards's inside for the opening try, and a subsequent hash by Golden of a kick through by Connolly presented Paul with a simple hack and chase.

In contrast to a disappointingly lacklustre Schofield, Edwards was superb. A chip kick allowed Radlinski to race on, and his running on the last tackle brought tries for Robinson and Connolly, whose second try, a teasing 80-metre individual effort, was the pick of Wigan's six.

Although blown irretrievably off course, the first of the retaliatory scores, by Harmon, helped Leeds to calm the storm. It will surely start afresh on Saturday.

SCORERS: Wigan: Tries, Connolly (2), Hall, Paul, Radlinski, Robinson Goals: Paul (7) Leeds: Tries: Mann (2), Harmon, Morley Goal: Holroyd

WIGAN: G Connolly, J Robinson, V Tuigamala, K Radlinski, M Offiah, H Paul, S Edwards, K Skerrett (sub: M Dermott, 40min) M Hall, T O'Connor (sub: R Smyth, 70), S Quinnell, M Cassidy, S Haughton.

LEEDS: G Holroyd, J Fallon, F Cummins, C Innes, M Golden, G Mann, G Schofield, N Harmon (sub: McDermott, 65), J Lowes, B McDermott (sub: H Howard, 25), A Morley, J Field, M Forshaw (sub: M Shaw, 30)

Referee: F Cummings

Warrington halve margin of defeat

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON'S return to the scene of their crime, four days after surrendering 80-0 in the Regal Trophy, brought half a repeat at St Helens yesterday in a 40-point losing margin in the Stones Championship.

Worse than a milder, although still emphatic 54-14 defeat, were the dismissals of two Warrington backs, Salesi Finau, for violent conduct in the 34th minute, and Lee Penny, in the second half. This was hardly the call to arms Clive Griffiths, who succeeded Brian Johnson as coach after the first drubbing, had in mind, especially after the encouragement of an early lead through a try by Iestyn Harris.

With 11 players, Warrington again suffered that sinking sensation, as St Helens scored at will towards the end. Danny Arnold and Joey Hayes claimed two tries apiece and there were others for Keiron Cunningham, Andy Haigh, Karl Hammond and Vila Matautia. Their only worries were injuries to the forwards, Ian Pickavance (ankle) and Vila Matautia (shoulder), but both are expected to be available for the final on Saturday.

Halifax drew 26-26 at Castleford, but learnt yesterday that John Bentley, 29, their Great Britain back and former England rugby union wing, is to return to his original code eight years after switching from Sale to Leeds. He is to join Rotherham, the Courage Clubs Championship third division side at the end of the inaugural Super League season in September.

Salford all but wrapped-up the first division title by winning 20-15 at Hull, while Keighley, their nearest rivals, were beaten at home by Widnes. Hull Kingston Rovers are virtually assured of winning the second division, after a 20-14 victory at Carlisle. Peter Roe, the Barrow coach, resigned after his side's defeat by Bramley.



Gooch, an improved speed skater, waits to pounce on his way to the British overall short-track title at Guildford

Gooch avoids slips to reclaim title

John Hennessy on a triumphant return to the British speed skating championships

NICK GOOCH came to the Guildford Spectrum leisure centre on Saturday to reclaim his kingdom. A year earlier, he had been undone in the British championships by a certain arrogance, seemingly an essential requirement for a short-track speed skater on the ice for all their pleasant demeanour off it.

On that occasion, he had led with a lap to go in the last event, the 3,000 metres, but complacency allowed Matthew Jasper to slip ahead and claim the overall title. Gooch had learnt his lesson well, and there was little likelihood of a repeat performance.

Not surprisingly, Gooch, an Olympic bronze medal-winner at Lillehammer in 1994, at the age of 20, was pleased with his day's work, but not totally satisfied. "I was only 44-something for the 500 metres," he said. "I'll have to get at least a second off that."

There was a good reason for his self-confessed failing, and he pulled up his right sleeve by way of explanation. It revealed a number of extensive and angry scars, the result of a bloody accident in Montreal in October, when another skater stumbled and brought him down.

After the operation, he was out of action for two weeks — not a long period, perhaps, but, as he explained: "The aerobic condition deteriorates fast, so you must recover slowly, especially with so many drugs in the body."

The first event on Saturday, the 1,500 metres, indicated that Gooch was back to something like his best. He thrives on the longer distances and, coming from last place among the six finalists with two laps to go, he picked them off one by one to win comfortably.

The 500 metres was less convincing. Having nearly fallen in the semi-final, Gooch made his customary bad start in the final, and had to settle for third place behind Wilf O'Reilly, the 1991 world champion, and Jasper. Gooch then won the 1,000 metres, swooping outside Jasper on the final bend, his "favourite manoeuvre". With only the 3,000 metres left, Gooch led by 12 points, three ahead of Jasper and O'Reilly. Only if they beat him could he be overhauled.

With four laps left, an unregarded skater, Jamie Fearn, leapt away. From a flurry of arms and legs, Gooch slipped in front with a lap to go to win the race and the overall title with something to spare.

Debbie Palmer won the women's title with a maximum haul of 15 points.

Hayles returns to lead victory parade

BY PETER BRYAN

ROB HAYLES took a break from his winter racing season on the Continent to spearhead London's victory in the opening meeting of the five cities Super Track League at Manchester, dominating the eight-race programme with three wins.

Teams from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Edinburgh compete in the weekly series at the £9 million national cycling centre, with each racing in four of the five matches.

An evening of intense competition was marred by a crash in the 8km scratch race, won by Hayles with strong tactical support from his squad. John Hargreaves, last year's Manchester League champion, was one of four riders involved in the spill and was taken to hospital with leg injuries; Jon Clay, double British track champion, was another who fell heavily opening a wound sustained when he crashed in last year's world championships in Colombia.

In addition to Hayles's scratch race victory, he won the devil-take-the-hindmost and was the powerhouse of London's seven-point victory over Manchester, with a total of 34. Birmingham, a further nine points behind, were third and Cardiff (10 points) last.

Alwyn McMath was a revelation in the sprint series. Irish-born and now studying at Salford University, he was never beaten in the sprint competition for which he was top seed after winning the qualifying 200 metres time trial in 11.377 seconds.

Hayles will miss the key last league meeting on February 3 as he is committed to race in the Six Hours of San Sebastian, the event in which he made his professional debut a year ago.

O'Sullivan hits back as session finishes all square

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, who has defeated Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White and Peter Ebdon en route to the final of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, found Ronnie O'Sullivan in stubborn mood as they ended the first session on level terms at 4-4 in Birmingham yesterday.

Higgins, successful in the German Open four weeks ago, exuded confidence before the match following an impressive 6-4 semi-final victory over Ebdon on Saturday in which he compiled breaks of 112 — the fiftieth century of his career — and 119.

Yet against O'Sullivan, who beat him 9-3 to capture the Benson and Hedges Masters title last February, Higgins found sizeable breaks difficult to come by and it was only O'Sullivan's tendency to take on ill-advised pots which prevented him pulling away.

O'Sullivan may have lost his initial outing in three of the season's first four world ranking events, but he has shown a vast improvement this week and, in beating Ken Doherty 6-4 in the semi-finals, he was back to his flamboyant best.

Runs of 79 and 40 secured O'Sullivan a 2-0 lead and he was unfortunate to suffer an explosive 'kick' on the brown in the third frame when on the verge of a 3-0 advantage.

Higgins cleared to the pink for 1-2; he controlled each of the next two frames and moved 4-2 ahead with a last-red-to-pink clearance in the sixth after O'Sullivan had foolishly attempted an extremely risky pink when safety was undoubtedly the most sensible course of action.

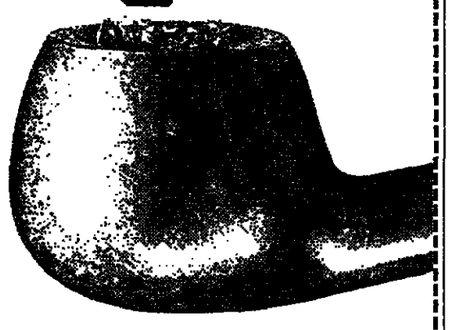
In many similar positions Higgins has forged on, but O'Sullivan crucially halted his opponent's four-frame winning sequence to trail only 3-4 and launched the highest break of the session, an 82 clearance, with a fearless long red in the eighth to salvage the frame from 55-0 arrears.

Both players enter the concluding session needing five of the remaining nine frames to pocket the £30,000 first prize and an additional £100,000 cheque from the sponsors for their nominated charities.

☐ Matthew Stevens, 18 of Carmarthen, was surprisingly beaten 5-4 by Richy McDonald in the fifth qualifying round of the £1.3 million Embassy World Championship at Blackpool. Stevens was expected to reach the final televised phase of the championship at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield in April.

RESULTS: Final: J Higgins (Scot) level with R O'Sullivan (Eng) 4-4. Frame scores (Higgins first) 1-79, 36-82, 61-44, 74-30, 78-21, 53-43, 29-62, 55-82 Semi-finals: Higgins bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-4; O'Sullivan bt K Doherty (Ire) 6-4.

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SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE

Chief Medical Officers' Warning

Corner drills pay off

Italy 0
Great Britain 5

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT Britain capitalised on the variations of their short corner drill to score five goals without reply against Italy in the second and final international men's hockey match at Cagliari, Sardinia, yesterday. Four out of ten corners were converted by Britain, three by Russell Garcia.

Italy tried to put more power into their attack with the experienced Giuliani moving from sweeper to centre half but several chances came Britain's way before Garcia converted the third short corner in the 23rd minute for a lead at half time.

Calum Giles scored from Britain's sixth short corner five minutes after the resumption of play and Hall obtained the third goal two minutes later after a through pass from Halls. Garcia added two more goals from short corners in the 44th and 60th minutes.

David Whitaker, the British coach, regarded the exercise as good practice in wearing down a defensive team. There will be two more matches against Malaysia at Bisham Abbey on January 13 and 14 before the team moves on to Barcelona for the Olympic qualifying tournament which starts on January 19. Britain need to finish in the top five for a place in the Olympic Games at Atlanta in July.

ITALY: M Rapp, S Bacciocchi, H Hanzaeri, J Salla, A Passoni, J Berella, A Gaibani, G Lanzarini, S Biscotti, S Modolo, L Baggio. Subs used: S Cini, J Colnago, P Faccioni.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Mason, J Wyatt, J Halls, S Fordham, Kaiser Tahir, Sarbjit Singh, C Mayer, R Garcia, P Thompson, J Lynch, N Thompson. Subs used: J Shaw, C Giles, D Hall.

Umpires: A Salmi (It) and C Madden (Scot).

Chetwynde aims to net greater success

Louise Taylor says motivation helped a small independent compete at top level in sport and academic achievement

CHELSIE GREENHOW has just won an Oxford Blue for netball. Last year, while a sixth-former at Our Lady of Chetwynde School, Cumbria, she played in the national under-19 netball finals, studied for four A levels to complement 12 grade A GCSEs and assumed a leading role in Chetwynde's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Also an accomplished musician, Greenhow is not, however, regarded as particularly exceptional by staff and pupils at the Barrow school.

Margaret Stones, head of the mixed, independent school for which has 505 pupils aged from three to 18 years old, said: "I try to practise the classical concept of education — [healthy mind, healthy body, all-rounder credo] and our success in netball should be seen in that context.

"We place equal importance on sport, music, art and academic work. All our girls are academic, all very hard-working and their motivation shines through when playing netball. Our aim is to do everything as well as possible."

So well that, academically, the school topped the 1995 government GCSE and A-level success-rate tables for Cumbria. Yet Stones, who is also the county schools netball coach, is anxious to stress that her academy is no exam-orientated sweatshop. "My girls and boys are going to have to earn livings, to have families but they also need to have a rounded, full life and to enjoy that life," she said. "Sport can help them do so."

Lauren Miller is captain of sport at the school. She is an under-16 England netball international and already possesses 12 GCSEs and four arts A-levels — at just 17.

Again, few eyebrows are raised. Miller is now studying for four more science A-levels in a school used to rubbing shoulders with, and sometimes beating, celebrated, high-profile rivals such as Millfield and Croydon High in the annual national schools netball finals.

Holding their own against such sizeable, intensely competitive opposition is remarkable, considering Chetwynde only started admitting senior girls — all ten of them — in 1986.

Even today, there are a mere 120 girls over 11 on the register. By 1988, though, Chetwynde lost just 9-7 to Millfield in the national schools under-14 final — "and we had a goal disallowed," Stones recalled. Chetwynde proceeded in similar giant-killing mode throughout the subsequent decade.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Each year, 3,000 schools enter the national finals and in 1989, Chetwynde eclipsed all to earn gold medals at under-16 level. They repeated the feat in 1990, and a year later, the under-14s did likewise, while those under-16s settled for silver.

Then, in 1993, the under-19s collected gold — from a 20-girl sixthform. 1994 saw the under-19s repeat that feat and the under-16s recapture gold. When Stones rang BBC Northwest TV to see if they would feature her school on the nightly regional evening magazine, however, the overwhelming lack of interest proved "disappointing." Especially as they featured schools rugby the next night, Stones said.

Not that she has anything against rugby — along with football, cricket, volleyball, table tennis, swimming and squash, it is one of a cross-section of sports played at Chetwynde and her two sons are oval ball aficiandos. Indeed, Stones has been intrigued to observe how, in the rugby league bastion of Barrow, fathers who initially attended netball only out of duty towards daughters have become hooked on the game. "They see how physically and tactically demanding it is," she said.

Last Saturday, Stones, and her husband Christopher, who is head of art and deputy county schools netball coach, took two thirds of the school's senior girls on a 2½-hour each-way drive to a tournament in Manchester. Such trips often entail a 6.30am start but Stones is gratified that she has never had a girl, some of whom come from isolated villages and farms, fail to turn up for a match.

At tournaments, the team is often recognised by "the Chetwynde throw". "People come up to old girls and say, you're a Chetwynde girl, I can see from the throw," Stones laughed. "The throw is part of our power game, we are very physically fit and play a fast direct form of netball. I believe in taking the shortest possible route to goal."

If Chetwynde may, thus, be considered a Wimbledon to Millfield's Manchester United, they also boast a cultured veneer. An English teacher by profession Stones — who has been at Chetwynde for "a long time" — is anxious to ensure her pupils enjoy regular trips to theatre at Stratford and art exhibitions in London.

On Friday she was at the Hockney Exhibition. "I believe that it is very important to stay mentally alert in order to keep yourself dynamic and if you live in a remote part of the country you have to be prepared to travel."

In some cases, even further than that famed Chetwynde Throw.

Haberdashers' tour success

HABERDASHERS' Aske's, Elstree, returned exhausted but successful from their multisports tour of the Far East, winning 11 out of 20 cricket, hockey and rugby union matches against representative sides in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia (a *Special Correspondent* writes).

Ten fixtures within the initial five days dispelled any illusions that the tour would be a serene holiday. However, despite 80F heat and 90 per cent humidity, the rugby side rattled up 159 points in three games, the hockey team achieved its maiden conquest on foreign soil after four previous tours, and a century by Simon Bloom at Kowloon Cricket Club, venue of the Hong Kong sixes, was the highlight of an excellent start on the cricket front.

Christmas Eve was spent on Lamma Island, which preceded an evening of carol singing beneath the famous Star Ferry clock tower in the midst of a crowd approaching 50,000.

Five matches were played in two days in Singapore, one of which pitted the rugby XV against the size and strength of the under-23 national side.

Despite a 22-7 defeat, the game illustrated the resilience, commitment and team spirit within the squad. The hockey team reached new heights with a 4-0 win over Singapore Under-21, reversing their 1-0 defeat the previous day.

The final leg of the trip was Malaysia, a paradise for the shoppers in the party and the scene of a magnificently contested draw against Malaysia's youth side at the national hockey stadium — Haberdashers' equaliser coming in the last minute — and a victory for the cricketers over the Kuala Lumpur branch of the Lord's Taverners.

The cricket team finished with a record of played seven, won five, lost two; hockey played seven, won two, drawn two, lost three; and rugby played six, won four, drawn one, lost one.

Players of the tour, as chosen by the staff and captains, were Sachin Shah, Zaheer Ferguson and Ben Lambert in the respective sports, but all 42 members of the party were left with memories that will last a lifetime.

One Man confirms grey eminence

By Julian Muscat

YEAR in, year out, jumping enthusiasts travel to Cheltenham in search of the defining moment. There were many false dawns before Desert Orchid finally rewarded the faithful with his Gold Cup victory in 1989. Now, seven years later, another grey, another ghost-like apparition, has appeared in the shape of One Man.

You could sense the weight of expectation long before the eight-year-old soared clean over the 22nd and final fence in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Sandown on Saturday. It proved conclusively that he meant business. He is more than a bully of lesser mortals, as some suspected in advance of his destruction of as accomplished a gathering of steeplechasers in many a year.

For Richard Dunwoody, realisation set in well before halfway. Dunwoody glanced over at Adrian Maguire, riding Barton Bank, his nearest market rival, and ventured: "We're not going much of a gallop, are we?"

Maguire's response was unprintable. As Barton Bank strained to hold his pitch, One Man sauntered past him, his pointed, flicking stride carrying him ever closer to the lead.

It was no contest from half way, when One Man reached his favoured place at the head of the pack. The grey was by now in exhibition mode and the rout extended 14 lengths back to Monsieur Le Cure, who held off Master Oats, last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, for third place.

The performance was yesterday lauded by Christopher Mordaunt, the official handicapper. "With Monsieur Le Cure finishing second, it slightly makes you wonder about the form," he said. "Nevertheless, One Man was very impressive but what does one do now? Does one rate him an absolute superstar before he has won a Gold Cup?"

Gordon Richards, who trains the horse, was in no doubt. "I won't say he's a champion. I'll let him prove that for himself. What I will say is that there is better to come. The weather had held up his training; I was worried about his fitness. He jumped terrific, but he'll be even better on good ground," Richards continued: "If we get it at Cheltenham you'll see a proper athlete. He loves to be up there in front. It comes naturally to him."

One Man is now a best-priced 7-4 favourite for Gold Cup glory — Ladbrokes offer only 5-4 — although Kim Bailey remains optimistic he can reverse the verdict in March.

Bailey, whose Book Of Music broke his back after falling heavily at the seventh fence, was delighted with Master Oats after the gelding's dismal showing at Chepstow. "I don't consider we've even gone into battle yet. Cheltenham will suit us better, we've an extra quarter of a mile to race and my horse was only 75 per cent right," he said.

The Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown on February 4 is next for Master Oats. Richards, for his part, is keen to send One Man to Cheltenham on a Gold Cup reconaissance mission later this month. However, the fixture may come too soon after the horse's recent exertions. "I'd like to give him a short break, so we'll look at the alternatives."

One Man has a glittering future on the evidence of his King George victory. After his performance on Saturday, few will back against him becoming only the sixth horse since the War to land the King George-Gold Cup double in the same season.

2.30 KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE (Grade I: £63,835: 3m)

1. ONE MAN (R Dunwoody, 11-4 fav); 2. Monsieur Le Cure (J F Titley, 25-1); 3. Master Oats (C Swan, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Barton Bank (pu), Merry Gale (pu), 10 Brief Gale (pu), Val D'Alene (4th), 20 Algan (6th), Book Of Music (f), Young Hustler (5th), 33 Coulton. 11 ran. 14l, 3l, 4l, 4l, 25l. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £3.60: £1.80, £3.30, £2.50. DF: £29.70. Trio: £54.90. CSF: £60.83.


JULIAN HERBERT

One Man and Dunwoody provide an exhilarating display at Sandown on Saturday

Hannon reveals Champion hand

By Julian Muscat

RICHARD HANNON, the East Everleigh trainer, blooded the first of two Champion Hurdle aspirants at Sandown on Saturday when Right Win, a group one winner on the Flat, swept to an impressive victory in the ING Barings Tolworth Hurdle on his debut over timber.

On a star-studded supporting card, no horse promised more than the talented six-year-old, now a 16-1 chance for the hurdling crown in March. Right Win's jumping was polished enough to keem him in contention before his superior finishing speed carried him clear of Strong Promise and Shankar.

River North, a horse of similar mettle on the Flat, held a prominent position before fading tamely in the straight.

Hannon barely paid Right Win his dues before extolling the virtues of Alriffa, who, according to the trainer, is the more natural jumper. "I can't wait to see Alriffa over hurdles after that," Hannon said. "They're both high-class horses. Right Win has had to learn from his mistakes at home but Alriffa has always jumped for fun."

Right Win now heads for next month's Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton and a meeting with Alderbrook, who has recovered from a leg injury. "The horse is back in fast work and I would say he is more forward now than he was this time last year," his trainer, Kim Bailey, said. Alderbrook's victory at Cheltenham has clearly triggered an influx of smart Flat performers to jumping.

Atours held his place as third-favourite for the Champion Hurdle despite his comprehensive defeat by Collier Bay in the Bonusprint Limited Handicap Hurdle on Saturday.

The winner, in receipt of 14lb from Atours, is now 4-1 favourite for The Ladbroke at Leopardstown on Saturday. The Champion Hurdle picture should take on further definition when Montelado tackles the Irish equivalent at Leopardstown later this month.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: JURASSIC CLASSIC (3.30 Lingfield Park)

Nb: Garrison Commander (2.00 Lingfield Park)

Sandown Park

Going: good to soft

11.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Collier Bay (G Bradley, 25-1); 2, Atours (11-4); 3, Bimsey (13-8 fav). 8 ran. 7l, 21/2l. J Old. Tote: £22.70: £5.00, £1.10. DF: £38.90. CSF: £83.14.

12.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Tibetan (E Murphy, 7-2), 2, Ocean Hawk (14-1), 3, Peasgrove Jessie (66-1). Our Kris 7-4 fav. 17 ran. 7l, 15l. Lady Harries. Tote: £4.60; £2.10, £4.00, £12.70. DF: £78.40. CSF: £53.42. Trio: not won (pool of £713.07 carried forward to today).

12.55 (2m ch) 1, Easthorpe (J F Titley, 4-1); 2, Storm Alert (11-8 fav); 3, High Baron (7-1). 5 ran. 14l, 2l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £1.30. DF: £3.80. CSF: £9.35.

1.25 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Major Summit (P Hide, 7-4 fav); 2, Dark Honey (16-1); 3, Clever Remark (40-1). 13 ran. 2l, 4l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.90; £1.70, £3.30, £10.50. DF: £18.70. Trio: £145.20. CSF: £29.88.

1.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Right Win (G McCourt, 4-1); 2, Strong Promise (7-1); 3, Shankar (5-1). River North 9-4 fav. 9 ran. Sl, sh hd. R Hannon. Tote: £5.60; £2.10, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £28.60. Trio: £66.80. CSF: £31.35

2.30 ees above

3.00 (3m 5f 110yd ch) 1, Superior Finish (A Maguire, 15-2); 2, Sibton Abbey (60-1); 3, Greenhil Tara Away (4-1); 4, Fyer's Nap (7-1). Suny Bay 100-30 fav (s). 16 ran. 2l, 2. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £8.80; £1.70, £9.10, £2.00, £2.90. DF: £343.60. Trio: £516.80. CSF: £279.21. Tricast: £1,590.44.

3.35 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Goldenswift (A P McCoy, 9-1); 2, Cross's Delight (4-1 fav); 3, Smatter (16-1); 4, Reverend Brown (5-1). 22 ran. 1¼l, 5l. G Balding. Tote: £11.60; £2.90, £2.00, £3.50, £1.80. DF: £29.30. Trio: £273.50. CSF: £53.17. Tricast: £582.38.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £13,868.75 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).

Placepot: £204.50. Quadpot: £12.30.

Haydock Park

12.00 1, What's Your Story (7-4 fav); 2, Samlee (5-1); 3, Chopwell Curtains (5-2). 11 ran.

12.30 1, Silver Shred (11-2); 2, Guinda (7-1); 3, Mr Cotton Socks (8-1). Crown Equerry 7-4 fav. 14 ran.

1.00 1, Smith's Bend (11-4 jf-fav); 2, Toogood To Be True (13-2); 3, Tasamosa (8-1). The Frog Prince 11-4 jf-fav. 10 ran.

1.30 1, Thornton Gate (5-2 jf-fav); 2, Stompin (12-1); 3, Aljadeer (12-1). Eskimo Nel 5-2 jf-fav. 9 ran.

2.00 1, Easy Buck (11-8 fav); 2, Blast (25-1) 5 ran.

2.35 1, Hatcham Boy (4-1); 2, Jet Rules (6-5 fav); 3, Hoochwinker (8-1). 10 ran.

3.05 1, Ask Tom (5-5 fav); 2, Cumbrian Challenge (13-8); 3, Hawkfield (20-1). 4 ran.

3.40 1, El Rubio (16-1); 2, Hazel Gale (8-1); 3, Silk Word (16-1) Ashwell Boy 2-1 fav (f). 12 ran. NR: Master Pangloss.

Warwick

12.05 1, Born To Be Wild (15-8 fav); 2, In Good Faith (100-30); 3, Bella Sedona (7-1) 15 ran.

12.35 1, Most Equal (7-1); 2, Kino's Cross (8-1); 3, Morstock (3-1 fav). 12 ran. NR: Joalina, Pampilio.

1.05 1, Castle Court (8-1); 2, Capeaway (12-1); 3, Shining Light (6-1). Jibber The Kibber Evens fav. 9 ran.

1.35 1, Draborgie (10-11 fav); 2, Stop The Waller (10-1); 3, Kitzinger (33-1); 4, Some Day Soon (16-1). 17 ran. NR: Mutual Trust.

2.10 1, Nahthan Lad (Evens fav); 2, With Impunity (9-4); 3, Where's Willie (14-1). 9 ran.

2.40 1, Volunteer (15-2); 2, Indicator (10-1); 3, Heathyards Rock (14-1). Rame De La Chasse 9-4 fav (pu). 14 ran.

3.10 1, Full Of Oats (4-1); 2, Killeshin (20-1); 3, Fiddlers Pike (33-1). Niszcaro 7-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Diamond Fort.

3.45 1, Buckhouse Boy (10-1); 2, Darzee (9-2); 3, Top Javelin (25-1); 4, Derab (33-1). Preanka Girl 11-4 fav. 25 ran. NR: Chicago's Best, Nellegrity, Oats N Barley. £1,090.38.

Lingfield Park

12.15 1, Myjinks (11-2); 2, Awashi's (5-1); 3, Play Footsteps (25-1). Thick As Thieves 3-1 fav. 12 ran. NR Bold Aristocrat.

12.45 1, Tartan Gem (10-11 fav); 2, Jobber's Fiddle (6-1); 3, Duveen (15-2). 10 ran. NR: Just-Mere-Mou.

1.15 1, Brylisaleily (100-30); 2, Opera Buff (8-4 fav); 3, Prince Danzig (20-1). 10 ran.

1.45 1, Krystal Max (11-8 fav); 2, Dancing Jack (7-4); 3, Ghostly Apparition (14-1). 4 ran.

2.15 1, Pasan Gold (12-8); 2, In The Band (Evens fav); 3, Bath Knight (12-1). 8 ran.

2.45 1, Sharp Imp (4-1), 2, Halbert (5-1); 3, Nkosana (20-1). Al Shaadi 7-2 fav. 10 ran. NR: Diamond Bangle, Rocky Two.

3.20 1, Raids (8-1); 2, Crystal Heights (9-1); 3, Pasey Grimes (10-1). Field Of Vision 4-1 fav. 15 ran.

☐ David Bridgwater rode the first four-timer of his career on Saturday aboard Born To Be Wild, Most Equal, Draborgie and Volunteer at odds of 372-1.

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Runs	Losing sequence	Level stakes
M Pipe	95	54	36	1	+10.13
P Hobbs	47	28	25	2	-10.04
N Twiston-Davies	43	33	23	1	-22.81
Mrs M Reveley	41	26	16	3	-56.32
G Richards	39	23	8	1	+34.30
K Bailey	38	30	36	3	-34.79
D Nicholson	34	30	17	1	-25.47
J White	33	28	26	26	-51.37
P Nicholls	30	25	13	19	+2.43
G Balding	30	23	19	1	+21.95

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	97	65	50	0	+57.58
D Bridgwater	81	51	39	1	+4.35
P Niven	46	29	20	7	-49.77
R Dunwoody	41	31	38	2	-58.21
A Maguire	38	35	38	1	-75.89
L Wyer	37	22	23	0	+62.85
A Dobbin	32	21	17	12	+13.41
J Osborne	32	32	28	12	-69.85
M A Fitzgerald	32	38	37	21	-80.73
C Llewellyn	29	26	17	3	-14.47

Dispensing swift justice as if to the manners born

TOM JONES



Racing commentary

With the imminent accession of Lord Wakeham to the top spot in racing administration as chairman of the British Horseracing Board, it is tempting to compare the democratic morass of quangos and committees he will inherit with the rather more streamlined, elitist and autocratic demesne over which his aristocratic predecessors were lucky enough to preside.

So far as horsemen, as opposed to accountants and "*petits functionnaires*", are concerned, the change cannot be said to have been all for the good of the sport, however much it may please those who refer to racing as the "product" of an "industry". For instance, there would have been no necessity in former days for breeders to plead for representation among the hierarchy since it was highly unlikely that anyone could aspire to the post of senior steward if he was not a breeder himself.

The functions of the "disciplinary committee", an appellation reminiscent of the regimes of Stalin, Robespierre and Danton, so far as they concerned riding offences, were carried out behind the scenes by the effective alliance of a highly respected senior stipendiary steward, Brigadier Roscoe Harvey, and the senior jockeys, Gordon Richards in the south and Willie Nevett in the north. It was unwise to ignore a "quiet word" from them, as the young Lester Piggott discovered to his cost. This system worked, and saved a lot of time and expense, and avoided adverse publicity.

Justice for trainers and jockeys alike was undeniably rough, but penalties on the whole were well earned, if not always for the particular misdemeanour for which they were imposed. I remember a trainer being fined a minimal sum for the misbehaviour of his animal at the start, and then being wheeled back instantly into the presence of Lord Galway to receive an imperial rocket and a much larger fine "for the attitude he adopted at the enquiry".

Administration, which seemed to go pretty smoothly, was in the hands of Sir Freer, the senior handicapper of the day, was that anyone who made a positive statement about racing in the morning was likely to be proved completely wrong by the time of the last race on the same day.

Racing today seems to suffer under an administrative burden comparable to that of the ceremonial Spanish donkey. Certain it is that a new trainer, quite apart from getting owners and horses, must arm himself with over 50 forms, few of which come from the Government, before he can set up in business.

With all their autocratic powers, the old-time stewards and their officials were still subject to sanction, if only in the form of enforced resignation or social ostracism.

On the few occasions on which I have met Lord Wakeham, he strikes me as most unlikely to cause unwelcome turbulence, but it might pay him to study these few lines which illustrate today's protocol in the event of disaster.

When you're out in the wild,
and as lost as a child,
And death looks you
straight in the eye,
And you're sore as a boil,
it's according to Hoyle,
That you cock your revolver
and die.
But the code of New Man
says, Lie all you can
And prompt resignation is
barred.
In sorrow and woe, it's
dead easy to blow
It's the keeping on living
that's hard.

Rudyard Kipling, or the Artful Dodger?

Francis Weatherby, whose staff at Cavendish Square appeared to consist solely of the Dickensian figure of Mr Twite, standing in a stiff white collar at an upright desk armed with a quill pen and a bottle of black ink.

Handicappers in those days never made statements to the press, apart from their own printed handicaps, and certainly not on the relative merit of horses of different generations, let alone of those in other countries.

The only public statement I ever heard from Geoffrey

Sanders hurt

AMANDA SANDERS, injured in a fall from Slivovitz at Lingfield on Saturday, has been detained in Redhill Hospital, Dorking. The duty manager said yesterday: "She is comfortable and stable, but had severe concussion after a head injury and will be detained for a further night."

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SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.25 Beauman, 12.50 Legal Issue, 1.15 Green's Bid, 1.45 People Direct, 2.15 Yougo, 2.45 RAMBO'S HALL (nap), 3.15 Loch Style, 3.45 Whackford Squeers.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 7F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.25 TIPPERARY APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,235: 1m) (10 runners)

1	(6)	000-	GREAT BEAR 27 (G) D Chapman 4-10-0	K Sked (5)	84
2	(9)	02-2	BEAUMAN 5 (D,S) P Evans 5-10-0	G Faulkner	(66)
3	(2)	001-	EAST BARNS 227 (B,CD,F,S,S) S Gollings 8-8-13	A Eddery	90
4	(4)	405-	ANOTHERONE TO NOTE 20 (B) N Littmoden 5-8-11	J Deanc (3)	95
5	(6)	000-	LADYBOWER 77 Lord Huntingdon 4-8-8	Aimee Cook	89
6	(10)	1/10-	SCENT OF POWER 28J (D,F) N Babbage 5-8-7	Iona Wands	86
7	(1)	000-	BROUGHTON'S PORT 82 W Musson 6-8-6	T Ashley (3)	94
8	(5)	300-	WOODLANDS LAD TOO 105 P Pritchard 4-8-3	Jo Hanson (3)	–
9	(5)	000-	CAROL AGAIN 23J N Bycroft 4-8-3	F Lynch	94
10	(7)	002-	GREEN APACHE 159 K Wingrove 4-7-10	J Bosley (7)	91

5-2 Beauman, 11-4 East Barns, 4-1 Anotherone To Note, 9-2 Green Apache, 8-1 Scent Of Power, 10-1 Ladybower, 14-1 others.

12.50 WICKLOW HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,807: 7f) (10)

1	(7)	112-	PEGGY SPENCER 38 (C,D,S) C Thornton 4-9-10	D McKeown	97
2	(8)	410-	LEGAL ISSUE 117 (D,F) W Haigh 4-9-6	Dale Gibson	(89)
3	(9)	436-	SO AMAZING 80 Mrs S Hall 4-9-3	J Weaver	94
4	(2)	000-	DAAWE 67 (V,D,S,S) Mrs V Aconley 5-9-2	M Denton	87
5	(5)	000-	GREY AGAIN 125 (B,D,S) S Bowring 4-9-2	C Teague (5)	90
6	(4)	356-	HI ROCK 30 (F) M Camacho 4-8-5	L Charnock	91
7	(1)	005-	SEA GOD 45 M Chapman 5-8-4	C Mundry (7)	90
8	(6)	000-	CROWNING TIRO 20 Mrs N Macauley 4-7-10	J Quinn	–
9	(10)	/00-	MACARDON LADY 112 N Byrom 5-7-10	S Maloney	–
10	(3)	000-	WOODLANDS ELECTRIC 42 P Pritchard 6-7-10	Jo Hunnam (7)	–

7-4 Peggy Spencer, 11-4 So Amazing, 9-2 Legal Issue, 6-1 Hi Rock, 8-1 Sea God, 12-1 Grey Again, Daawe, 16-1 others.

1.15 TIPPERARY APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,235: 1m) (9)

1	(6)	03-4	WARHURST 3 (CD,G) D Nicholls 5-9-12	Jo Hunnam (3)	88
2	(6)	000-	YOUNG JENSEN 27 B Mackinson 4-9-7	F Lynch	90
3	(8)	00-	DONTA 49 (B,G) J L Harris 7-9-5	D Sweeney (3)	91
4	(4)	640-	LUCKY TUCKY 49 (D,S) J Jenkins 5-9-1	Sally Wall (7)	86
5	(1)	00-5	GREEN'S BID 5 (D,F,S) D Chapman 5-9-0	K Sked (5)	89
6	(2)	030-	GENESIS FOUR 139 (B,CD,G) S Bowring 5-8-11	J Edmunds (5)	91
7	(5)	0/0-	ROYAL DANCER 67 R Weaver 4-8-8	G Faulkner	–
8	(3)	000-	SELMESTON 27 P Felgate 4-8-3	Iona Wands	–
9	(7)	00-0	SHOTLEY AGAIN 3 (B,S) N Bycroft 6-7-13	T Ashley (3)	80

7-4 Green's Bid, 3-1 Warhurst, 5-1 Donta, 6-1 Lucky Tucky, Young Benson, 8-1 Genesis Four, 20-1 Shotley Again, 25-1 others.

1.45 LIMERICK CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,572: 1m) (8)

1	(8)	0-	HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 33 T Naughton 9-1	T Ashley (7)	–
2	(4)	400-	MULHOLLANDE LAD 46 M Chapman 8-9	C Mundry (7)	77
3	(6)	606-	ALPHETON PRINCE 37 J L Harris 8-7	J F Egan	(66)
4	(5)	416-	PEOPLE DIRECT 24 (CD,G) K McAuliffe 8-7	J Fanning	(66)
5	(2)	065-	BUMBLEROOT 39 (G) M Johnston 8-5	T Williams	95
6	(3)	006-	DANCING CAVALIER 30 B Hellessey 8-5	F Lynch (7)	83
7	(1)	065-	HAVANA HEIGHTS 42 J Eyre 8-4	R Lappin	74
8	(1)	050-	ARCH ANGEL 27 (G) D Brench Davis 8-2	N Adams	96

9-4 People Direct, 5-2 Arch Angel, 4-1 Bumblefoot, Havana Heights, 8-1 Dancing Cavalier, 16-1 Alpheton Prince, 20-1 others.

2.15 WATERFORD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,572: 1m 4f) (10)

1	(10)		BESCABY J Wharton 5-9-3	J Quinn	–
2	(5)	0/0-	BURNTWOOD MELODY 276 J A Harris 5-9-3	J F Egan	–
3	(2)	5/	I'LL BE BOUND 24J W Marcson 5-8-3	P McCabe (3)	–
4	(8)	/02-	MICK THE BISCUIT 355 R Phillips 5-9-3	A Clark	80
5	(1)	430-	NEVER TIME 53 Mrs V Aconley 4-8-13	A Culhane	72
6	(9)	4-	TANIYAR 48 B Hellessey 4-8-13	R Cochrane	70
7	(6)	530-	YOUGO 33 M Johnston 4-8-13	J Weaver	(66)
8	(7)	000-	ZESTI 198 T Clement 4-8-13	J Stack (5)	67
9	(4)	00/	BURROUGH HILL LASS 515 (V) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-12	C Sanders	–
10	(3)	000-	ZALAMENT 20 N Littmoden 4-8-8	T G McLaughlin	–

6-4 Mick The Biscuit, 11-4 Yougo, 5-1 Zesti, 6-1 Taniyar, 8-1 I'll Be Bound, 12-1 Never Time, 20-1 Zalament, 25-1 others.

2.45 KILDARE HANDICAP (£3,831: 1m 3f) (11)

1	(6)	006-	RAMBO'S HALL 38 (F,S,S) J Glover 11-10-0	S D Williams	97
2	(9)	024-	MAGIC JUNCTION 81 (G) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-10	J Weaver	90
3	(5)	145-	MR TOWSER 202 (C,B) W Haigh 5-8-8	Dale Gibson	89
4	(1)	118-	NASHAAT 36 (C,F,S,S) M Chapman 5-8-6	C Maundy (7)	86
5	(8)	813-	FAR AHEAD 37 (C,S) J Eyre 4-9-6	R Lappin	97
6	(2)	00-0	SLIMAAT 5 (CD,S,S) D Nicholls 5-9-2	Alex Greaves	88
7	(7)	313-	SUDDEN SPIN 35J (CD,S) J Norton 6-8-11	R Cochrane	96
8	(4)	324-	ELITE JUSTICE 39J (F) N Tinkler 4-8-6	Kim Tinkler	91
9	(11)	004-	OUR TOM 30 (G) J Wharton 4-8-4	N Carlisle	92
10	(3)	022-	MANFUL 21 (F) J Hetherton 4-8-2	N Kennedy	96
11	(10)	413-	WILDFIRE 25 (CD,S,S) R Allehurst 5-8-8	J Quinn	(66)

9-2 Rambo's Hall, 5-1 Far Ahead, Nashaat, 11-2 Manful, 6-1 Wildfire, 7-1 Our Tom, 8-1 Sudden Spin, 10-1 others.

3.15 KERRY SELLING STAKES
(Qualifier: 3-Y-O: £2,607: 7f) (13)

1	(9)	128-	DRASONJOY 39 (B,CD,G) J Payne 9-5	A McGlone	93
2	(1)	5-	ADLER 30 M Camacho 9-0	L Charnock	65
3	(6)	0-	GUY'S GAMBLE 27 J Wharton 9-0	J Fanning	–
4	(10)	844-	LOCH STYLE 27 R Hollinshead 9-0	R Cochrane	(66)
5	(4)	350-	MITCHAL RAIDER 37 J A Harris 9-0	C Teague (5)	94
6	(2)	330-	STILL HERE 100 M Newton-Ellis 9-0	A Clark	69
7	(3)	053-	WELSH MELODY 45 (V,S) K Burke 9-0	C Rutter	86
8	(12)	30-0	EPIPETTE 3 M Bycroft 8-9	S Maloney	91
9	(11)	00-	FLORRIE'M 70 J L Harris 8-9	J F Egan	92
10	(7)	050-	NAPIER STAR 21 Mrs N Macauley 8-9	S D Williams	75
11	(8)	0-	RADMORE BRANDY 70 N Littmoden 8-9	T G McLaughlin	90
12	(3)	000-	STOLLY NIGHT 82 J Wharton 8-9	J Quinn	–
13	(13)	020-	TRICKLEDOWN 38 M Wane 8-9	A Mackay	93

7-2 Dragonjoy, 4-1 Mitchal Raider, 5-1 Stilly Night, Florrie'm, 8-1 Loch Style, Still Here, 10-1 Welsh Melody, 12-1 others

3.45 WICKLOW HANDICAP (Div II: £2,807: 7f) (9)

1	(6)	000-	WHITE SORREL 45 (C,B) A Harrison 5-10-0	J Stack (3)	98
2	(9)	50-0	WHACKFORD SQUEERS 3 (B) D Nicholls 4-8-12	Alex Greaves	88
3	(2)	300-	DON'T GET CAUGHT 27 J L Harris 4-9-4	J F Egan	91
4	(7)	/60-	GEOLLY 55 (B) J Stanley 4-8-13	J Fanning	(66)
5	(4)	004-	MADNES 27 (V) J Balding 5-8-13	J Edmunds (7)	(66)
6	(5)	004-	AWESOME VENTURE 59J (D,S) M Chapman 6-8-13	C Mundry (7)	91
7	(6)	630-	ADJADO 203 (B,CD,F,S) S Bowring 7-8-9	C Teague (5)	91
8	(1)	424-	DR CALIGARI 27 (V) S Gollings 4-8-7	J Quinn	98
9	(3)	600-	RAINBOWS RHAPSODY 114 M Camacho 5-7-12	L Charnock	86

11-4 Whackford Squeers, 3-1 Monis, Awesome Venture, 7-2 Dr Caligari, 12-1 White Sorrel, 16-1 Don't Get Caught, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 6 winners from 19 runners, 31.6%; K McAuliffe, 3 from 13, 23.1%; Lord Huntingdon, 21 from 100, 21%; W Marcson, 6 from 31, 19.4%; M Johnston, 30 from 164, 18.3%, W Haigh, 18 from 111, 16.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 32 winners from 185 rides, 17.3%; R Cochrane, 23 from 139, 16.5%; D McKeown, 33 from 247, 13.4%; Alex Greaves, 23 from 172, 13.4%, C Teague, 9 from 80, 11.3%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 3.30 Bramblehill Buck. Southwell: 2.15 Burrough Hill Lass, 3.45 Geolly.

LINGFIELD

THUNDERER

1.00 Supreme Genotin
1.30 Valiant Tosk
2.00 Garrison Commander
2.30 Children's Choice
3.00 Foxtrot Romeo
3.30 The Golfing Curate
4.00 Palosanto

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 BASSENHALLY.

GOING: HEAVY (7AM PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION) SIS

1.00 RAMPART NATIONAL HUNT MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,647: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

101	6	AMBLESIDE 100 (B Yhr) Mrs S Williams 5-11-10	A Maguire
102		BLUNDSEN BOY (Sir Christopher Wates) J Gifford 5-11-10	P Hide
103	0-	BROOMHILL BOY 284 (S Hanstock) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-10	W Marston
104		FINE IDEA (S Facing) T Casey 7-11-10	Mr M Longstaffe (7)
105	3	HOH MUSIC 39 (BF) (D Allport) K Bailey 5-11-10	R Dunwoody
106		ISHIMA (D Page) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-10	W Welsh (7)
107	0-50	KEY PLAYER 18 (W Pendarves) R Rowe 7-11-10	D O'Sullivan
108	P	LITTLE CRINK 75 (Mrs Eric Boucher) D Grissell 5-11-10	B Fenton (5)
109	P	MASTER PAINSLOSS 25 (Equity Sleepdeclaring) A Tissell 6-11-10	S McNeill
110	21	MISTER MOROSE 18 (S) (Mrs J Morris) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10	C Llewellyn
111	P	MOUNT LODGE 42 (V Sample) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-10	J Railton
112	0-P	RAMBLING ON 51 (Mrs J Strange) C Crowe 5-11-10	P Carberry
113	1-	SUPREME GENOTIN 325 (S) (W Stott) J Old 7-11-10	J Osborne
114	22-	GLENGARRIF GIRL 282 (V) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 5-11-5	D Bridgwater
115	P	ALL OVER RED ROVER 39 (S Roberts) A Carroll 4-10-12	B Powell

BETTING: 5-2 Mister Monroe, 4-1 Glengarrif Girl, Hoh Music, 5-1 Supreme Genotin, 8-1 others.

1995: REESHLOCH 6-11-0 D Fortt (4-11 fav) A Tinnett 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBLESIDE 37¼l 6th to Call Equivance in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m, good). HOH MUSIC 21¼l 3rd to John Drumm in Doncaster NH flat race (2m 110yd, good). MISTER MOROSE beat Sotterland 11l (yld, good). MISS MORROSE 4l in NH flat race hard (2m 110yd, heavy).

SUPREME GENOTIN beat Camp Bank 7l in Sandown NH flat race (2m 110yd, heavy). GLENGARRIF GIRL 25¼l 2nd to Dukes Meadow in Newton Abbot NH flat race (2m 1f, good to soft). No selection

2.00 FORT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,002: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

201	24F-443	CORLY SPECIAL 34 (V,F,S,S) (P Brazier) K Burke 9-11-10	A Lamach	87
202	5-36F41	AEDEAN 16 (C,S) (M Organ-Palmer) G Enright 7-11-5	J R Kavanagh	67
203	21-60U1	FENWICK 32 (D,F,S,S) (Major A Pearn) R Hodges 9-11-5	T Dascombe (5)	86
204	4F63-F5	TAKE BY STORM 32 (BF) (Mrs R Blackburn) R Buckler 7-11-1	B Powell	86
205	44/03-4P	QUARRY HOUSE 34 (Mrs E Chappell) D Chappell 8-11-0	J Railton	–
206	20/2-F	GARRISON COMMANDER 53 (BF) (R Ogden) A Turnell 7-10-12	P Carberry	90
207	5F-5P28	PRIZE MATCH 28 (S) (Dr J Hasbrouck) J York 7-10-9	S McNeill	90
208	DR/F5-32	POLICEMANS PRIDE 18 (R Dare) M Madgwick 7-10-8	B Fenton (5)	(66)
209	334-213	RIVAGE BLEU 23 (D,BF,S) (C King) J King 9-10-7	G Upton	(66)
210	2-60032	RICHU 24 (F) (Mrs L Richards) Mrs L Richards 8-10-3	M Richards	89
211	P5/0P5/	LE DEBUTAN 611 (S Powell) P Hedger 9-10-1	D O'Sullivan	–
212	F408-FP	LO-FLYING MISSILE 24 (B Clifford) R Dickin 8-10-0	R Bellamy	–

Long handicap: Lo-Flying Missile 9-5

BETTING: 7-2 Garrison Commander, 5-1 Fenwick, 6-1 Take By Storm, Rivage Bleu, 7-1 Aedean, 8-1 Policemans Pride, 10-1 others.

1995: COUNTERBALANCE 8-11-7 S McNeill (6-1) J McCormack 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORLY SPECIAL 3l 3rd of 7 to Stanlas Hillcrest in a conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). AEDEAN beat POLICEMANS PRIDE (5lb better off) 9l to 7-runner novices' handicap chase here (2m, heavy). FENWICK beat Cookies Hi 1¼l in 12-runner novices' handicap chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good) with TAKE BY STORM (2lb better off) neck 3rd. PRIZE MATCH 6l 2nd of 4 to Artic Wings in Fakenham novice chase (2m 5f, good) penultimate start. RIVAGE BLEU 10½l 3rd of 9 to East Hoxton in Uttoxeter novices' handicap chase (2m 5f, good to firm) with PRIZE MATCH (3lb better off) 14l 6th.

Selection: FENWICK (nap)

FOOTBALL POOLS FIXTURE CARD

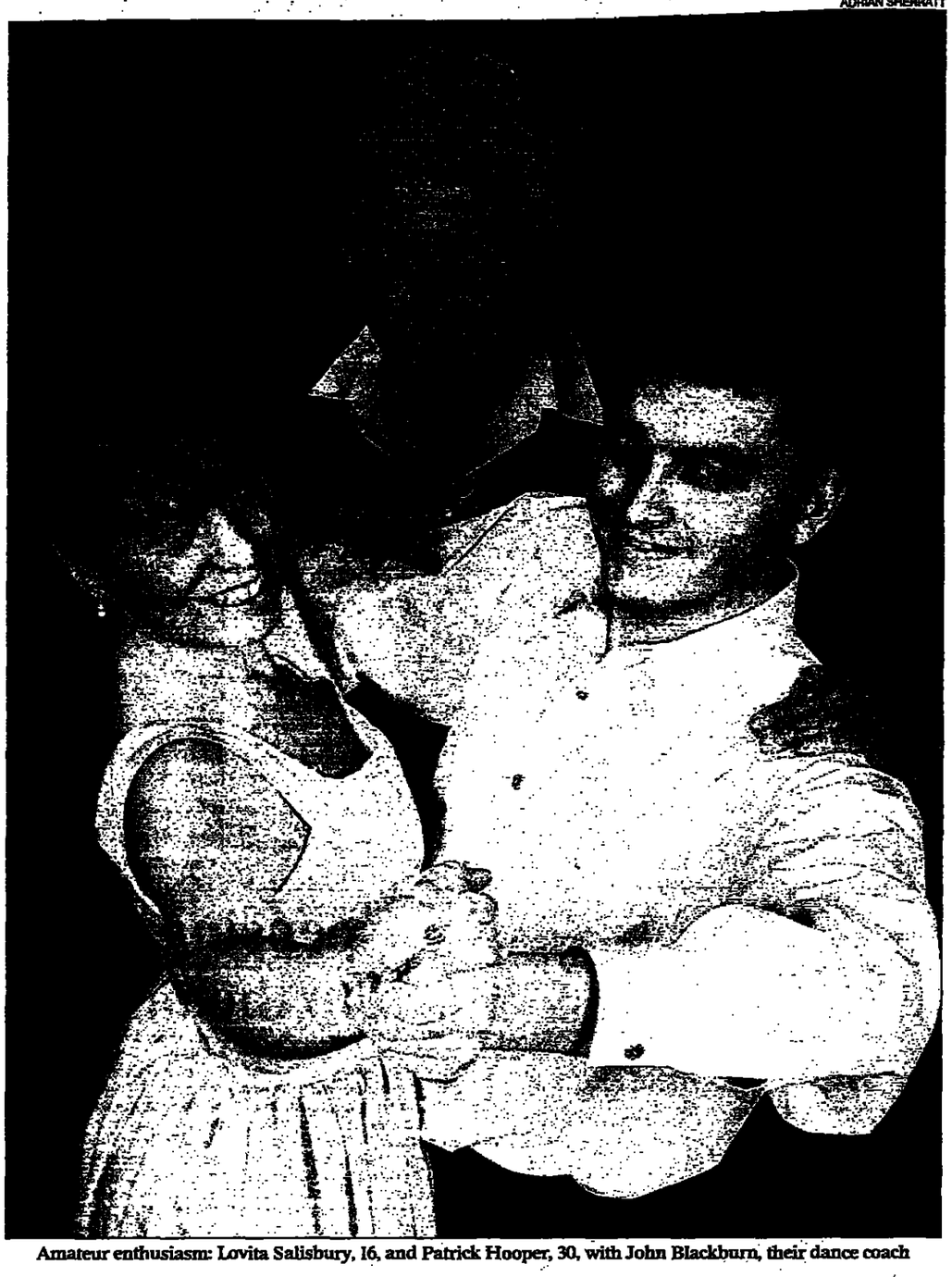
101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,S,S) (Mrs D

مكتبة من الأصل

Ruth Gledhill on a dedicated band of would-be Olympic athletes who train in tailcoats or spangled gowns

Serious, strenuous and strictly ballroom

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Amateur enthusiasm: Lovita Salisbury, 16, and Patrick Hooper, 30, with John Blackburn, their dance coach

Thousands of people go ballroom dancing in Great Britain's 8,000 dance schools and halls each week. For most, it is primarily a way to meet new people and enjoy a night out with music to move to.

However, for a dedicated minority, ballroom dancing is not a social activity. It is a sport; and to this sport they bring the fierce competitive spirit, intensive training routines and obsessional enthusiasm more commonly associated in the public mind with running, rugby, swimming or football.

Many still regard competitive ballroom dancing, or "dance sport" as its practitioners call it, as something of a joke. Some would deny watching the BBC's *Come Dancing* series. However, that public perception could be about to change. To the relief of some, the BBC has dropped *Come Dancing*, which many dancers believe failed to portray a normal competition accurately. Also, After 14 years of intensive lobbying, ballroom has been granted provisional recognition as a sport by the International Olympic Committee. It will come up again for full recognition in two years and, according to Rita Thomas, of the International Dance Sport Federation, this is expected to be given.

The world's top dancers can expect to compete at the millennial Olympics in Sydney, Australia, which should boost the sport's popularity worldwide — and, if Britain's dancers maintain their present standards, they should claim many of the medals.

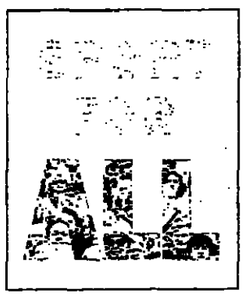
"For anyone starting out, be prepared to work hard and keep fit," Thomas said. "The top couples do a lot of physical training, as well as dancing, to build up their stamina; but there are rewards. Our couples are invited abroad to compete. They make friends all over the world."

The sport is rare in demanding dependency between partners. Each must sparkle individually to win, but also relies on the other for a good performance. The poise, elegance and control required mean that muscles are used in a way not seen in any other sport.

In Britain, sponsorship is harder to find than in almost any other developed country, because of the sport's image.



Professional poise: Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton



DANCE FACTS

Competitions cater for all ages, from juveniles to over-50s. Those starting in mid-life can enter the over-35s "senior" competitions. It is never too late to learn, although would-be professionals should begin as young as possible. Beginners interested in social dancing only should check their local library or newspaper for details of the nearest school. For competitive dancing or any other information, contact the British Council of Ballroom Dancing on 0181-545 0085.

However, although dance sport can cost thousands of pounds for amateur couples at the top, for beginners, it is comparatively cheap, with group lessons in many schools costing as little as £5 an hour.

Lovita Salisbury, 16, and Patrick Hooper, 30, have just begun competing in the beginners' ranks. They were put in touch by Gloria Sheaves, of Bristol, their teacher. Instead of the lavish, wildly expensive tails and ballroom dresses worn in the higher grades, they wear "lounge clothes" on the floor. Their biggest competition to date was Champions of Tomorrow at Blackpool at the weekend, where they took on dozens of other young hopefuls in the under-35 beginners league. They have lessons each week with John Blackburn, their coach, in Bristol, and compete at weekends.

To cater for beginners and novices, the next grade up, many venues now hold Friday evening "lounge clothes" competitions, which are cheap to enter. Yet for those truly bitten by the bug, there is no limit to how much time and money can be spent in training and travelling to competitions worldwide.

Joanne Bolton, 23, has danced for 20 years; Timothy Howson, her partner, for 19 years. Until a few weeks ago, when they turned professional, they were Britain's top amateur couple. Now, they are in training for their first big professional competition, the Star Ball at the Grosvenor in London on Wednesday.

Like most of Britain's top couples, Bolton and Howson were dancing almost as soon as they could walk. Bolton's parents channelled her childish energy by taking her to their dance classes, where she was an instant hit. She began competing at six, dancing with another girl.

"There weren't many boys who wanted to do it," she said. At 14, she found a boy partner and, within two months, they won the international open youth championship, going on to win the British open youth amateur modern. Howson and Bolton got to know each other at competitions. "We decided to become partners 4½ years ago," Bolton said. "It was a risk because Tim was several inches taller than me, and there were adjustments to make."

They rapidly danced their way to the top, winning the British open amateur title three years in a row and defeating 500 couples from all over the world, including an influx of talent from the former Soviet Union, where ballroom dancing has become hugely fashionable. They have also won the international championship at the Albert Hall for three years, including last October, prompting their decision to mark the new year by turning professional.

Their training schedule is hectic. Besides working out regularly in a gym at their home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, they dance during the week and all weekend. Their main coach is Ernie Chatt, a top judge and dance teacher who runs the Moonglow studio in Watford, Hertfordshire, but they also take lessons with many others, including Bill and Bobbie Irvine, former world ballroom and Latin champions, Richard and Janet Gleave, eight-times undefeated world ballroom champions, and Michael and Vicky Barr, five-times world ballroom champions. "We take the information we have learnt from them, go back to our coach and spend hours analysing it," Bolton said.

She is fortunate to have a sponsor, ChrisAnne, a dancewear company that supplies her with 15 dresses a year, complete with rhinestones and boa feathers, then sells them on at between £1,600 and £1,900 each. Because Bolton is petite, many go to Japan, where, as in Germany, dance sport is pursued passionately by members of all social classes.

Yet even with sponsorship, life as an amateur champion is not cheap. Lessons cost £35 an hour and, until Bolton and Howson turned professional, they were strictly forbidden to earn money from teaching or giving demonstrations.

Top amateur dancers elsewhere in the world are not only allowed to earn money but also are treated as stars. Yet here, where there has long been disagreement over whether ballroom is a sport or an art, it is all too often not taken seriously, according to Howson, who won his first significant championship at 11.

"I was given a very difficult time at school for doing ballroom dancing instead of playing football," he said, "but when I won that first trophy, I took it to school and everyone thought it was fantastic. It was enormous, like the FA Cup."

He can understand why others take the mickey out of dancers, but he has no regrets. "Just think how many girls go to dancing classes," he said. "Hundreds, and they are usually quite good-looking. For all those guys spending all that money in pubs and wondering where all the girls are, they are usually out dancing."

Court of Appeal — Law Report January 8 1996 — Court of Appeal

Mutuality requirement essential

Morris and Others v Agrichemicals Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment December 20]

The mandatory set-off provided for on the liquidation of a company under rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) could not be triggered by an agreement for set-off where the requirement of mutuality was absent.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing appeals by

(i) Agrichemicals Ltd, Bishopswood Estates, Eurofert Ltd, Solai Holdings Ltd, Solai Services Ltd, Tradeworth Ltd, the principal debtors, and Société Generale de Gestion et Services SA, the depositor, and

(ii) Rayners Enterprises Inc, the principal debtor, and Mohamed Jessa, the depositor, against the decision of Mr Justice Rattee in the Chancery Division on March 9, 1994 that Christopher Morris, John Richards, Stephen Akers and Nicholas Lyle, the liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, were not liable to give credit for the amount of depositors' deposits before claiming to recover the amount of the indebtedness of the principal debtors.

Mr Christopher Carr, QC and Mr Michael Todd for the first appellants; Mr John McDonnell, QC, for the second appellants; Mr Robin Dicker for the liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeals had arisen in two test cases in which the liquidators of the bank had sought directions.

In a large number of cases the bank had lent money to a customer, the principal debtor. A third party, the depositor, had deposited money with the bank and purported to charge the deposit to the bank with repayment of the loan. The charge was by way of non-recourse collateral security; the bank did not obtain a personal covenant or guarantee of repayment from the depositor.

Before the loan was repaid the bank went into liquidation. The liquidators had sought directions whether they should attempt to recover the whole of the outstanding loan from the principal debtor and leave the depositor to prove in the liquidation of the bank for the amount of the deposit after the loan had been fully repaid; or whether they should set off the amount of the outstanding loan against the deposit and claim from the principal debtor only so much if any of the loan as exceeded the amount of the deposit.

Mr Justice Rattee had held that the liquidators were not required to give credit for the amount of the deposit before claiming to recover the amount of the indebtedness of the principal debtor.

The letters of lien/charge in the two cases were in similar terms. Neither contained any express guarantee on the part of the depositor or any personal covenant, whether as surety or principal debtor, to repay the indebtedness of the principal debtor.

In that respect the present case was to be distinguished from *MS Fashions Ltd v Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* ([1993] Ch 425) which concerned loans made by the bank to three different companies secured by a letter of lien/charge over money deposited with the bank by a depositor and by the personal guarantee by the depositor.

Lord Justice Hoffmann, sitting at first instance, had held that the effect of the automatic operation of set-off in bankruptcy was to extinguish the liability of the depositor under his guarantee: that that amounted to payment of the guaranteed debt; and that accordingly it extinguished the liability of the principal debtor to the bank.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision that the effect of the security documentation, which constituted the depositor a principal debtor, was to dispense with the need for a prior demand.

The question in the present case was whether the absence of any personal obligation on the part of the depositor to pay the principal debt was a material distinction which compelled a different result. If it was, then, it was submitted, the result was a paradox; an insolvent creditor was in a better position if he had not obtained a personal guarantee than if he had.

The letters of lien/charge purported

(i) to create in favour of the bank a lien or charge on the balances maintained by the depositor with the bank for all the outstanding liabilities of the principal debtor to the bank;

(ii) to give the bank power to withdraw any of the sums standing to the credit of the depositor with the bank and utilise them in the reduction or discharge of the liabilities of the principal debtor without prior reference to the depositor;

(iii) to prohibit the depositor from "encumbering, assigning or dealing with" the deposits in any way; and

(iv) to allow the bank to refuse to release the deposit to the depositor unless or until the entire outstanding liabilities of the principal debtor whether actual or contingent had been repaid in full and the bank was under no obligation to provide or make available banking facilities to the principal debtor.

The essential question was whether, in the absence of a personal guarantee or other obligation on his part to pay the amount of the principal debt, there was at the date of the winding up order any sum due from the depositor to the bank within the meaning of rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.

In the court's judgment the problem in the present case was susceptible of a simple solution.

The principal debtors were indebted to the bank. Their controlling shareholders deposited moneys with the bank. If the case had stopped there, there could have been no question of set-off in the bank's insolvency. The bank could not have set off the debts which it owed to the depositors against the debts which their companies owed to the bank. The requirement of mutuality would have been absent.

Even if all parties had agreed that the bank should set off the amounts in question, it could not have done so after the bankruptcy. In the absence of the necessary mutuality, the set-off would have contravened the statutory scheme of distribution in insolvency. Once insolvency supervened, rule 4.90 required set-off in the situations in which it was applicable and public policy forbade it where it was not.

By the letters of lien/charge the depositors had agreed with the bank that it could apply the amounts standing to the credit of their deposit accounts in discharge or reduction of the indebtedness of the principal debtors.

That was an express agreement that the bank could set off the debts due to the depositors against the debts due from the principal debtors, and as such it was ineffective once the bank was in liquidation.

The principal debtors had been unable to persuade the court that the mandatory set-off under rule 4.90 was triggered by an agreement for set-off where the requirement of mutuality was absent, or that the fact that the agreements for set-off were comprised in charge-backs supplied the missing element of mutuality.

The court recognised that that conclusion gave rise to the paradox already mentioned, unless the decision in *MS Fashions* was restricted to its own facts, the depositor in that case being treated as a principal debtor and not a surety.

But the conclusion was inevitable if serious prejudice to the general body of creditors was to be avoided. The conclusion was not unjust. It was not the function of insolvency set-off to prefer a creditor who was not indebted to the insolvent estate, or whose liability was secondary only and capable of being discharged by the party primarily liable. There was no injustice in requiring a creditor against whom no claim was made to prove for the debt which was due to him.

If it was thought unacceptable that the outcome should depend on whether collateral security was given to secure the debt of the principal debtor or a secondary obligation of the surety, then it was *MS Fashions* which required reconsideration.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Gagrat Gardi & Co; Lovell White Durrant.

Barrister exceeded his duty

Thatcher v Douglas and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment December 19]

The duty of a barrister to present his client's case before the Court of Appeal could not extend to advancing the client's assertion, unsubstantiated by any evidence, that the trial judge was corrupt or biased. A barrister's duty in such circumstances was either to decline to comply with the instructions or to withdraw from the case.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Mr James K. Douglas and his wife, Mrs Diane Douglas, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Donne, QC, at Portsmouth County Court on April 19, 1993, that the plaintiff, Mr R. G. Thatcher, who had died since the hearing, had an enforceable right to use a concrete slipway leading to tidal mudflats and situated in the area of the parties' common boundary.

Mr Graham Lyons for the defendants; Mr T. A. S. Pearson for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that there was a most regrettable feature about the case, which was otherwise unremarkable, which in the court's experience made it unique.

At a late stage the appeal had been converted into an attack on the integrity of the recorder without the smallest foundation or the slightest evidence.

Letters written by Mr Douglas to the Lord Chancellor, the recorder, his own solicitor and the court revealed paranoid thinking and contained threats to do grievous bodily harm to the recorder.

In the summer Mr Douglas apparently had accepted proper advice that the appeal should not be contaminated by those allegations of corruption and bias. At a late stage he changed his instructions and insisted that they should be made. Mr Lyons acted on those instructions. While the court appreciated the difficult situation in which Mr Lyons had found himself, he had made a grave error of judgment in complying with his client's instructions.

The duty of counsel to put his client's case could not extend to advancing the client's belief, unsubstantiated by any evidence, that the judge was corrupt or biased. His duty in such circumstances was either to decline to comply with the instructions or to withdraw from the case.

Moreover, Mr and Mrs Douglas had been granted a legal aid certificate to pursue the appeal on the original notice of appeal.

Specific authority ought to have been obtained from the Legal Aid Board for the further conduct of the appeal on the added grounds of corruption and bias.

Thus the board would have had the opportunity to refuse to allow public money to be wasted on such an unwarranted exercise.

Solicitors: Peter M. Ross, Havant; Michael Dahons, Hayling Island.

Pharmacy services

Regina v Humberside Family Health Services Authority and Another, Ex parte Moore and Others

The provision by general practitioners of pharmaceutical services was a relevant consideration for a family health services authority to take into account under regulation 4(4) of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations (SI 1992 No 662) when considering the adequacy of provision in the neighbourhood, by listed pharmacists outside that neighbourhood and within the authority's catchment area.

Mr Justice Potts so held in the Queen's Bench Division on December 18 when granting judicial review to Dr J. R. Moore, Dr J. D. Marsden and Dr S. D. Robertson, who practised as general practitioners in Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Humberside, of the decision of the first respondent, Humberside Family Health Services Authority, to grant the second respondents, Mr J. N. Crump and Mr P. Watson, preliminary consent to establish a pharmacy and to provide pharmaceutical services in Holme.

HIS LORDSHIP said that authority had applied the wrong test by concluding that because no pharmaceutical services were provided in Holme by persons on the pharmaceutical list, the application by the pharmacists had to be approved.

Regulation 4(4) required the authority to consider not only whether there were any dispensing pharmacies in Holme, but also the adequacy of provision by listed pharmacists outside that locality.

Admissibility of parliamentary material in considering purpose of Act

Three Rivers District Council and Others v Governor and Company of the Bank of England

Before Mr Justice Clarke

[Judgment November 27]

Where the court was considering the purpose or object of a statute for some reason other than the construction of a particular domestic statutory provision, the strict criteria for admissibility of parliamentary materials laid down in *Pepper v Hart* ([1993] AC 593) and *Melluish (HMIT) v BMI (No 3) Ltd* ([1995] STC 964) did not apply.

Mr Justice Clarke so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the application of Three Rivers District Council, the first plaintiff, for leave to refer to two speeches made by ministers in Parliament.

The first was that made by the Minister of State at the Treasury on November 23, 1978, when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the Banking Act 1979, and the second that made by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury on November 28, 1986 when he moved the second reading of the Bill which became the Banking Act 1987.

The main action concerned the insolvency of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, the second plaintiff, with the consequential loss of substantial sums of money by thousands of depositors, the first plaintiff being among that number.

The plaintiffs contended that the Bank of England, the defendant, had acted deliberately and knowingly in breach of its obligations imposed by Council Directive 77/780/EEC of December 12, 1977 (OJ 1977 L322/30) and the Banking Acts 1979 and 1987, both in licensing BCCI to carry on business in the UK and in failing thereafter to revoke that licence and the subsequent authorisation under the 1987 Act.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC, Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Dominic Dowley and Mr Robin Dicker for the plaintiffs; Mr Nicholas Stadlen, QC, Mr Paul Lasok, QC, Mr Mark Phillips, Mr Bankim Thanki and Mr Rhodri Thompson for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE CLARKE said that the plaintiffs intended to refer to the two speeches in support of an argument that the defendant's contention that the Banking Acts 1979 and 1987 were not intended by Parliament to impose on the defendant an obligation to protect depositors from negligence, impropriety, dishonesty and so on on the part of credit institutions was wrong and that that was the plain intention of Parliament when it passed those Acts.

The defendant submitted that the plaintiffs were not entitled to rely upon the speeches in accordance with the criteria laid down in *Pepper v Hart* and *Melluish v BMI (No 3) Ltd*.

His Lordship said that in those cases the House of Lords was not considering the case where the court might be considering the purpose or object of a statute for some reason other than the construction of a particular statutory provision, and that moreover the House was considering a purely domestic statute.

In his Lordship's judgment, it did not necessarily follow that the principle applied so narrowly to a case where the purpose of the legislation was to introduce into English law the provisions of an international convention or of a European directive, even where the question was one of construction.

His Lordship added that it was relevant to consider the object and purpose of the Banking Acts 1979 and 1987 in the instant case; and that the purpose and objects of those statutes was relevant to the issues between the parties arising out of the 1977 Directive: that where the court was seeking to construe a statute purposively and consistently with any relevant European materials, including directives, it was of particular importance to ascertain the true purpose of the statute.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Freshfields.

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FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Play-offs: AFC: Pittsburgh 40 Buffalo 21. NFC: Green Bay 27 San Francisco 17.

ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA: Birmingham Games: Men: 60m: K Williams (Cardiff) 6.72secs 1,500m: T West (Morpeth) 3min 58.83sec. 60m hurdles: N Owen (Belgrave) 7.89. Long jump: S Phillips (Birchfield) 7.88m. Women: 60m: D Callow (Sale) 7.40. 600m: N Tait (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 2mins 9.84sec. 3,000m: S Salmon (Newquay) 9 55.94. 60m hurdles: C Court (Birchfield) 8.27. Pole vault: L Stanton (Rotherham) 3.80m.

CRYSTAL PALACE: Puma Indoor Grand Prix meeting: Men: 60m hurdles: A David (Cambridge Harriers) 8.3. High jump: P Gilding (Brighton and Hove) 1.90m. Long jump: M Randall (Hastings) 6.22m. Triple jump: P Ralph (GEC Avionics) 14.48m. Pole Vault: A Hardy (Blackheath) and W Gilles (Croydon) 3.90m. Shot: L Newman (Belgrave) 17.60m. Women: 60m hurdles: M Grestad (Minerva, Norway) 8.5. High jump: J Powell (Unattached) 1.80m. Long jump: E Finlan (Staffesbourg Barnet) 5.52m. Triple jump: K Skeggs (Ashford) 12.21m. Pole vault: K Alexander (Cambridge Harriers) 6.90m. Shot: J Oakes (Croydon) 18.11m (Olympic qualifying standard).

CROSS COUNTRY: Mellusk, Northern Ireland: Cocs-Cola International: Men (6km): 1, J Karluld (Ken) 24min 2sec; 2, C Sweaney (Tipton Harriers) 24:04. 3, C Finnerty (Ire) 24:06. 4, R Walen (Bel) 24:08. 5, B Burke (Ire) 24:11; 6, W Ormeyo (Ken) 24:14 Women (4.8km): 1, P Radcliffe (Bedford) 16:02; 2, R Charuiyot (Ken) 16:06. 3, E Fidasov (Rom) 16:19; 4, S Rigg (Warrington) 16.42. 5, A Wyeth (Parkside AC) 16.43; 6, R Martin (Ir) 16:44. Putney Vale: Reebok Surrey League: First division (5.5m): 1, G Staines (Belgrave) 28:44. 2, J Solly (Hame Hill) 28:55; 3, J Kidell (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 29:18 Teams: 1, Herne Hill 265pts, 2, Thames Hare and Hounds 281; 3, Aldershot, Farnham and District 337. 4, Hounslow 394; 5, Belgrave 434, 6, South London Harriers 452. Standings: 1, Hounslow 877; 2, Thames Hare and Hounds 892; 3, Herne Hill 925, 4, Aldershot, Farnham and District 1005; 5, Boxhill Racers 1193, 6, Belgrave 1682 Croydon: Second division (5.5m): 1, A Eynon (British Airways) 28:10. 2, S Marriott (Hercules Wimbledon) 29:18, 3, S Golf (Croydon) 29 15. Teams: 1, Croydon 181pts, 2, Hercules Wimbledon 280. 3, Metropolitan Police 450. Veteran: H Hezlehurst (Metropolitan Police) 30:57 Standings: 1, Hercules Wimbledon 718, 2, Croydon 741; 3, Metropolitan Police 1185. Woodford: Knight Sports Metropolitan league: Men (5m) 1, C Addison (Highgate) 26:54; 2, A Kokar (Ilford) 27.15; 3, J Sear (Woodford Green) 27:20; 4, A Holl (Verlea) 27:23 Teams: 1, Woodford Green 241 6pts, 2, London Irish 2144, 3, Verlea 2041; 4, North London 1763; 5, Hillingdon 1743, 6, Thames Valley Harriers 1704 Aston Clinton: Chiltern League: Men (10km): 1, J Hyde (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 34:43, 2, T Hyde (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 34:47, 3, M Smith (O Gaytonians) 34:49. Teams: 1, O Gaytonians 1390; 2, Bracknell 1200; 3, Windsor, Slough and Eton 1159. Veteran: D Wheeler (Oxford City) 38:47 Standings: 1, O Geytonians 5419, 2, Oxford City 4966, 3, Windsor, Slough and Eton 4844, 4, Bracknell 4347. Women (6km): 1, A Hill (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 26'31; 2, F Garland (Windsor, Slough and Eton) 27:56; 3, G Duckworth (Leighton Buzzard) 28:31. Teams: 1, Windsor, Slough and Eton 57; 2, Vauxhall 25, 3, Leighton Buzzard 24. Standings: 1, Windsor, Slough and Eton 200, 2, Vauxhall 88, 3, Milton Keynes 51 Eastbourne: Sussex veterans' championships: Men (5m): 1, N Gates (Brighton and Hove) 35:22, 2, P Wilcomb (Brighton and Hove) 37.30, P Balmead (Brighton and Hove) 37:42. Teams: 1, Brighton and Hove 10pts, 2, Brighton and Hove B 46, 3, Hastings 69

ROAD RUNNING: Pete Atkinson Race (10km) Men: 1, D Gibbons (Leeds University) 31:03, 2, K Chapman (Leslie Deans RC) 31:21; 3, E Warden (Kenya) 31.26. Teams: 1, Leeds City 43, 2, Norfolk Olympeds 61; 3, Pudsey and Bramley 83 Veteran: H Knowles (Duke Street) 34:52. Women: 1, A Hulley (Leeds City) 35:02, 2, S Wightman (Cardiff) 36.35; 3, L Wollenden (Leeds City) 37:13; 4, L Wright (Leeds City) 37:25, 5, V Mercl (Leeds City) 38:43. Teams: Leeds City 8 Stubbington: Stubbington Green Open (10km): 1, K Howard (Bodhil Racers) 30 45, 2, S Poore (Team Solent) 30:47, 3, S Harris (Bodhil Racers) 30.55 Teams: 1, Portsmouth Joggers 53, 2, Southampton City 109; 3, Havent 114. Veteran: R Ball (Portsmouth Joggers) 33:40. Women: 1, P Kingsborough (Overton) 36'49, 2, T Slade (Chichester) 37'08, 3, P Forse (Stubbington Green) 38:06 Team: 1, Stubbington Green 30; 2, Southampton City 38, 3, Portsmouth Joggers 50 Thurrock: Linford Joggers (10m): 1, A Koaul (Ilford) 52:52; 2, D Lennon (Thames Valley Harriers) 54.28, 3, A Coleman (Woodford Green) 55:39. Team: Thurrock 48. Veteran: S Williams (Pitsea) 56.15 Over-50: P Bobbo (Thurrock) 59:46. Women: 1, M Ellis (Shaftesbury Barnet) 1:01:46, 2, P Jones (Ilford) 1 05:18, 3, L Chalabi (East London Runners) 1.10'52. Team: East London Runners. Harrogate: Harrogate Road League (5km): 1, K McCluskey (Salford) 15.02, 2, M Armstrong (Sunderland) 15:26; 3, C Beighton (Rotherham) 15:29. Over-45: D Throup (Bingley) 16:04 Over-50: N Jennings (Bingley) 17.30. Women: 1, J Palmer (Sheffield) 17:21, 2, C Wild (Hallamshire) 18:36; 3, K Drake (Spenborough) 18'45. Woking (3m) 1, B Brennan (Phillips Petroleum) 14:05 (course record); 2, A Allen (Denmead) 14:51; 3, W Busuttil (Phillips Petroleum) 15.43

BADMINTON

HELSINKI: Finnish Open: Finals: Men: R Magnusson (Swe) bt A Nielsen (Eng) 15-3 15-10. Doubles: J Anderson and I Pearson (Eng) bt H Andersson and J Thoknason (Swe) 15-4 9-15 15-4. Women: Singles: J Muggeridge (Eng) bt K Morgan (Wales) 12-10 11-5. Doubles: Muggeridge and Morgan bt J Davies and N Beck (Eng) 15-3 15-10. Mixed doubles: Anderssen and E Chalfin (Engl bt T Waland and C Silver (Nor) 15-13 15-4.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Boston 93 Cleveland 77. New Jersey 107 Dallas 99, Orlando 115 Seattle 93 Indiana 105 San Antonio 92; Milwaukee 113 Portland 96, Vancouver 103 Philadelphia 102, Golden State 122 Minnesota 119, LA Clippers 94 Phoenix 88 LA Lakers 118 Utah 100 Saturday: Charlotte 96 Atlanta 90; Cleveland 105 Orlando 94, Detroit 90 Washington 82 Chicago 113 Milwaukee 84 Houston 99 Indiana 97; Denver 86 Miami 88 Sacramento 115 Golden State 106.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	25	7	.781	—
New York	20	10	.667	4
Miami	16	14	.533	8
Washington	16	15	.516	8½
Boston	13	17	.433	11
New Jersey	12	18	.400	12
Philadelphia	6	24	.200	18

Central division

Chicago	28	3	.903	—
Indiana	18	13	.581	10
Cleveland	17	13	.567	10½
Detroit	16	15	.516	12
Charlotte	15	17	.469	13½
Atlanta	14	17	.452	14
Milwaukee	12	19	.387	16
Toronto	9	23	.281	19½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	9	.727	—
San Antonio	20	9	.690	2
Utah	21	11	.656	2½
Denver	13	19	.406	10½
Dallas	8	22	.267	14½
Minnesota	8	22	.267	14½
Vancouver	6	25	.194	17

Pacific division

Seattle	22	9	.710	—
Sacramento	19	9	.679	1½
LA Lakers	17	16	.515	6
Phoenix	13	18	.448	8
Golden State	14	18	.438	8½
Portland	14	18	.438	8½
LA Clippers	12	20	.375	10½

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Group four: Cambs 135 Beds 80, Herts 124 Suffolk 124

YETTON TROPHY: Third-round: Swinton 90 Blackpool Newton Hall 71, York 93 Selby 72, Lincoln 75 Boston 68, Cambridge Chesterton 107 Huntingdon 59, Northampton 94 Kingsthorpe 65; North Walsham 76 County Arts 70 Desborough (Maidenhead) 90 Foxhill 59; Herts 90 Handycross 71; King George 87 Elmbridge 57 Croydon 93 Sutton 72; Wey Valley 103 Loddon Vale 56 Egham 83 Rushmoor 72, Folkestone 90 Prince Arthur 69, Angel 77 Sevenoaks 75, King Alfred 78 Grafton 71; Eastbourne 87 Preston 76, Five Rivers 65 Havant 63, East Dorset A 86 East Dorset B 65; Clevedon 78 Nailsea 72, Ilminster 89 Yeovil 63; Exonia 90 Kingsley 84; Plymouth Civil Service 89 Cammoggas 79.

BOXING

PARIS: European Light-middleweight championship (12 rds) Laurent Boudouani (Fr, holder) bt Javier Castillejo (Sp) pts

CRICKET

One-day international

Australia v West Indies

BRISBANE (Australia won toss): West Indies beat Australia by 14 runs

WEST INDIES

S C Williams c Healy b McGrath	0
S L Campbell b McGrath	5
P V Simmons c Lee b Waugh	42
*R B Richardson c Bevan b Law	81
C L Hooper c Slater b Reiffel	18
R A Harper b Waugh	10
†C O Browne run out	1
D D Gibson b Lee	52
J R Bishop run out	5
C E Ambrose not out	3
C A Walsh b McGrath	0
Extras (w 6, nb 5, lb 3)	14
Total (49.3 overs)	231

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-27, 3-101, 4-131, 5-165, 6-167, 7-171, 8-218, 9-228.

BOWLING: McGrath 9.3-1-47-3, Reiffel 7-1-50-1; McDermott 8-0-43-0; Waugh 10-0-30-2; Bevan 3-0-16-0. Lee 8-1-30-1, Law 4-1-12-1.

AUSTRALIA

*M A Taylor c Browne b Bishop	14
M J Slater c Campbell b Ambrose	0
M E Waugh c Browne b Walsh	5
R T Ponting c Harper b Bishop	61
S G Law c and b Simmons	62
M G Bevan run out	17
S Lee c Simmons b Walsh	6
†I A Healy c Walsh b Gibson	15
P R Reiffel run out	14
C J McDermott b Gibson	1
G D McGrath not out	0
Extras (lb 6, nb 9, w 7)	22
Total (47.4 overs)	217

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-27, 4-142, 5-179, 6-180, 7-187, 8-216, 9-217

BOWLING: Ambrose 9-2-20-1, Walsh 9-0-56-2; Bishop 10-0-49-2; Gibson 5 4-0-38-2. Harper 4-1-9-0 Simmons 10-0-39-1

Man-of-the-match: Gibson

	P	W	L	Pts
Australia	5	4	1	8
West Indies	7	3	4	6
Sri Lanka	4	1	3	2

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Perth: South Australia 256 (D Lehmann 62, J Brayshaw 60, J Angel 3-52, B Reid 5-54) and 287-4 (Lehmann 110 not out, G Blewett 96) v Western Australia 377 (M Hussey 96, S Hegg 66, T May 5-131).

WHANGAREI, New Zealand. Tour match (second day of three): Zimbabweans 274-7 dec (D Houghton 86, A Flower 75 and 50-1 (G Flower 33; New Zealand Academy XI 213-1 dec (R Lawson 113 not out, M Bell 53)

HARARE: Tour match (final day of three): Zimbabwe Schools 75 and 172 (D Murphy 64, P Richardson 5-64) England under-19 400-7 dec England under-19 win by an innings and 153 runs

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: Morfa Stadium, Swansea: BCCA National veterans' championship: 10 miles: 1, C Featherstone (Derwenside CC) 1hr 2min 13sec; 2, A Russell (Kingsley Vale CC) 5, S Bennett (O Rangers) at 1 55. National schools' championship, 8 miles: 1, R Taylor (Brook CC) 35.18, 2, D Booth (Ace RT) at 19sec; 3, M Robinson (Keighley Y) at 2min. Bromfield, Shropshire: Ludlow CC: 10 miles: 1, J Winn (Extreme CC) 52.24; 2, S Knight (Halesowen A and CC) at 41sec, 3, G Richardson (Coventry Olympic RC) at 1.53. Corsham Vale, Bristol: Severn RC: 11 miles: 0 Beckingsale (Clevedon RC) 49.42

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN, Surrey: Embassy World Professional Championship: Semi-finals: R Burnell (Wales) bt L Wallace (Scot) 6-2; S Beaton (Engl bt A Fordham (Engl) 5-3

FENCING

BUDAPEST: World Junior Cup: 1, L Memmi (It), 2, T Orlieb and 2, S Johnson (GB), G Miceli (It), 12th P Walsh (GB)

ALDERSHOT: Open tournament; Men's epee: 1, T Perry (Sale Bones) 2, N Waller (Haverstock), 3, T Bowran (Lansdowne) and P Mitchell (Reading), Men's foil: 1, P Forrester (Sussex House; 2, M Questier (Redhill) 3 R Wheeler (Hemel Hempstead) and S Hewitt (Sale Pau).

GOLF

CARLSBAD, California: Mercedes championship: Third-round scores (US unless stated): 203: M O'Meara 68 69 66 207, N Faldo (GB) 70, 69, 68, 208: C Pavin 67, 71, 70; J Gallagher 71, 67, 70, S Hoch 69, 69, 70, L Janzen 71, 68, 72, 209: B Crenshaw 69, 71, 69, B Bryant 70, 70, 69, 210: D Love 72, 71, 67, D Waldorf 71, 70, 69, B Tway 71, 69, 70 212: S Ehringer (Aus) 70, 72, 70, L Roberts 71, 71, 70, T Lehman 71, 69, 72 214: K Perry 70, 74, 70; P Stewart 74, 69, 71; M Calcavecchia 73, 69, 72, J Furyk 74, 68, 72, 215, F Funk 70, 73, 73, 216: D Weibring 69, 75, 72; V Singh (Fiji) 73, 71, 72 217: B Mayfair 73, 75, 69, J Morse 74, 71, 72 218: H Sutton 76, 73, 69 219: G Norman (Aus) 73, 73, 73, W Austin 71, 73, 75, 220: E Dougherty 74, 73, 73, P Mickelson 74, 72, 74 221: T Trybba 71, 76, 74 224: J Daly 76 75, 73

RYE: Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society President's Putter: Fifth round: N Paban (O) bt R D Mared (O) 1 hole; R A Sanders (O) bt D T Sparrow (O) 5 and 4; I J M Smith (C) bt P L Osborn (C) 4 and 3, M R Cox (C) bt A de C Aldrich-Blake (C) 3 and 2, C J Rotheroe (O) bt N J Grant (C) 2 and 1, M G Ebert (C) bt T E Tew (O) 2 and 1, C J Dale (C) bt D E F Simmons (C) 2 and 1; A G Edmond (C) bt D J Youngman (O) 4 and 3, Sixth round: N Paban (O) bt R A Sanders (O) 2 and 1, I J M Smith (C) bt M R Cox (C) 2 and 1, C J Rotheroe (O) bt M G Ebert (C) 1 hole, C J Dale (C) bt A G Edmond (C) 23rd hole Semi-finals: N Paban (O) bt I J M Smith (C) 3 and 2, C J Rotheroe (O) bt C J Dale (C) 19th hole. Final: C J Rotheroe (O) bt N Paban (O) 20th hole

HOCKEY

CAGLIARI: Men's International: Great Britain 5 Italy 0

DTZ MIDLAND INDOOR INVITATIONAL: Dta Travellers 3 Harborne 9; Buccaneers 9 Firebrands 2 Stourport 6 Northop Hall 3, Barford Tigers 7 M I M 6, Dta Travellers 2 O Loughtonians 5, Buccaneers 5 East Grinstead 7 Stourport 3 Hounslow 3 Menzieshill 6 Barford Tigers 9 Hull 6 O Loughtonians 12 Harborne 4

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Kent/Sussex: Beckenham 2 Blackheath 3, O Beckenhamians 1 Belvedere 2, O Williamsonians 5 O Bordenians 0; Sevenoaks 2 Middleton 2 Hampshire/Surrey: Epsom 1 Dulwich 1, Solent HC 4 Walton and Weybridge 0

WOMEN'S INDOOR LEAGUE: Second division: Ealing 6 Exmouth 1, St Albans 5 Dulwich 1 Sevenoaks 1 St Austell 3 Brasted and Sanderstead 2 Ealing 10, Exmouth 5 St Albans 5, Dulwich 8 Sevenoaks 3, St Austell 9 Bradford Swimenbens 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Friday: Hartford 4 Ottawa 2, Buffalo 3 Toronto 1 Pittsburgh 5 Detroit 2, Washington 4 NY Rangers 4, Dallas 5 Winnipeg 4, Anaheim 3 Calgary 1, Florida 3 Edmonton 2, Los Angeles 5 San Jose 2 Saturday: Boston 5 Hartford 2 NY Islanders 5 Ottawa 4 Detroit 3 Chicago 0, Montreal 6 Buffalo 2, New Jersey 4 Washington 1 Toronto 5 Colorado 2 Calgary 2 Florida 0, St Louis 3 Pittsburgh 2, Los Angeles 7 San Jose 5, Vancouver 9 Tampa Bay 2

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 3 Humberside 3 Cardiff 9 Fife 1, Milton Keynes 2 Slough 5 Nottingham 3 Sheffield 3 First division: Billingham 10 Solihull 8, Chelmsford 3 Bracknell 4, Durnfries 4 Guildford 3; Medway 13 Murrayfield 3, Swindon 12 Paisley 3, Telford 4 Blackburn 6

MOTOR RALLYING

GRANADA TO DAKAR RALLY: Eighth stage (Atar to Zouerat, 511km) Cars: 1, H Masuoka (Jpn, Mitsubishi) 6hrs 15min 19sec 2 J-P Fontenay (Fr, Mitsubishi) at 11 51, 3, K Shinozuka (Jpn, Mitsubishi) 14:40; 4, P Lartigue (Fr, Citroen) 16 46 5 J-L Schlesser (Fr, Seat) 26:04 Motorcycles: 1 F Mooni (It, KTM) 6 40 43, 2 D Trolli (It, Cagiva) at 46sec 3, E Onoi (It, Yamaha) 2:59, 4, J Arcarons (Sp, KTM) 3:46, 5, T Magnaldi (Fr, KTM) 16 02 Leading positions: Cars: 1 Lartigue 31 52 23 2, P Wambergue (Fr, Citroen) at 50 59 3, Masuoka 1 21 03 4, A Varanen (Fin, Citroen) 1 53 04 5, Fontenay 2 06'33 Motorcycles 1 Orioli 34 51 03, 2, Arcarons at 42 43 3 Trolli 51 43 4, Magnaldi 1 49 07, 5, C Sorlolo (Sp, KTM) 2.46 03

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Peal Hurst British U-24 Championship, Semi-finals: J Larken bt M Windows 8-15 14-17, 15-3, 18-15, 15-9 A Smith-Bingham bt T Sawrey-Cookson 15-6, 3-15, 15-10, 15-6 Final: Smith-Bingham bt Larken 15-13 15-9, 15-10 Under-21 Semi-finals: Singles: H Foster bt R Walker 15-11, 15-10 18-14 C Charlton bt C Walsh 15-11, 15-5, 10-15, 15-5 R Carter and C Robards bt T Drayson and E Behn 15-11 11-15 18-13 15-4 Doubles: H Foster and W Sawrey-Cookson bt C Walsh and C Charlton 15-3 15-5, 17-16 T Sawrey-Cookson and J Larken bt H Foster and W Sawrey-Cookson 15-17, 15-9 15-4 15-10 M Windows and A Smith-Bingham bt P Walker and P L Marchland 10-15, 15-4, 15-4, 15-8

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: BNB Resources British Professional doubles championship: Second round: C Lumley (Aus) and A Lyons bt J Davies and P Paterson 6-2 6-5, S Ronaldson and A Snelgrove bt M Eadie and A Oliver 2-6 6-5 6-3 D Jones and M Ryan bt K Ludekens and M Seigneur (Fr) 6-4 6-4.

SCHOOL SPORT

FOOTBALL: FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Cheshire 0 Merseyside 1, Durham 4 Cumbria 1, South Yorkshire 0 Northumberland 3 FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Bedfordshire 2 Suffolk 0, Durham 4 Cumbria 0, Merseyside 3 Lancashire 1, South Yorkshire 3 Northumberland 4 London Cup Under-15: Bedfordshire 3 Suffolk 1 Inter-County Under-15: Durham 2 Cumbria 1, English Full Film Trophy: Burnley 2 Walsall 3, Swindon 0 East Berks 1 President League: Southampton 1 Basingstoke 1 London Sun Shield: Aldershot 3 Luton 0 Crisp Shield: Camden 0 Hackney 1 Leicester Mercury Trophy: Nottingham 4 Peterborough 2 Merseyside Cup: Halton 2 Chester 1 Wright Cup: Havant 3 Vale of White Horse 1 Southern League Under-15: Southampton 3 Aldershot 3 Miller Cup Under-14: Swindon 1 Southampton 0 Hereward Trophy: Nottingham 6 Peterborough 0 Inter-Association Under-15: Leeds 0 Hull 1, Nottingham 4 Peterborough 1 Alder Cup, Kirkby Knowsley 4 Trafford 0 Snowdon Cup Under-14: Liverpool 5 Kirkby Knowsley 3 Vernon League: St Helens 0 Wirral 2 Inter Town Challenge: Blackburn 2 Bolton 2 Barnsley 1 South Notts 4 Rotherham 2 Bradford 2.

SNOOKER

BIRMINGHAM: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge: Semi-finals: R O Sullivan (Eng) bt N Doherty (Ire) 6-4, J Higgins (Scot) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-4

SQUASH

SHEFFIELD: Commercial Union British Junior Open championships: Finals: Boys' under-19: A Faizy (Egypt) bt M Cowie (Norfolk) 9-3, 7-9, 4-9 9-3, 9-4 Girls' under-19: T Shorton (Staffs) bt J Thacker (Yorks) 5-9, 9-5 10-8, 5-9, 9-3

SWIMMING

HONG KONG: World Cup short-course series: First leg: Men: 200m freestyle: 1 D Loader (NZ) 1 47 41, 2 C Troeger (Ger) 1 48.13, 3, S Cameron (NZ) 1 50 81 100m breaststroke, 1, S Yunyu (China) 1 01 56 2 G Schymd (US) 1 01 94 3, D Chiang (China) 1'02 47, 5, A Turner (GB) 1 03 65 100m butterfly: 1, D Silarzew (Ukr) 52 95 3, S Sanders (GB) 55 74 Women: 100m freestyle: 1, S Hopkins (GB) 57 43sec 2 N Jorgensen (Swe) 57 60 3, V Walker (GB) 58.83 50m breaststroke: 1, H Xiao (China) 31 11 2, J King (GB), 32 46 3, H Jahner (Swe) 32 28. 400m individual medley: 1, A Wilson (NZ) 4 40 60, 2, C Yan (China) 4 40 84, 3, F Fu-yen (Tpe) 4 50 87

TENNIS

DOHA, Men's tournament: Semi-finals: P Korda (Cz) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6-7, 6-1 6-3 T al-Aynaoui (Mor) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-4 6-4

ADELAIDE: Men's Australian Hardcourt championship: Semi-finals: B Black (Zim) bt M Damm (Cz) 7-5, 6-3 Y Kaleinikov (Rus) bt J Frana (Arg) 7-5 6-1

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: Women's tournament: Finals: Singles: S Cacic (US) bt B Paulus (Austria) 6-3 7-6, 6-4 Doubles: E Callens (Bel) and J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt J Hetherington (Can) and K Radford (Aus) 6-1, 6-0

PERTH: Hopman Cup mixed-team tournament: Final: Croatia 2 Switzerland 1 (Croatia names first) Halard bt M Rosset 7-6, 7-5 Ivanisevic and Mirjni bt Rosset and Hingis 3-6, 7-6, 6-5. Switzerland retired

VOLLEYBALL

BREMEN: Women's European Olympic qualifying tournament: Russia 3 Germany 0; Holland 3 Croatia 0

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup

Final

Cardiff 18 Toulouse 21

Cardiff: Pens: A Davies 6. Toulouse: Tries: *Castagnede, Cazalbou. Con:* Deylaud. Pens: Deylaud 2 Dropped goal: Castagnede.

(aet; 15-15 after 80min)

(at Cardiff Arms Park)

A international

Italy 29 Scotland A 17

Italy: Tries: Arancio, Gardner, Vaccari, Visentin Cons: Dominguez 3. Pen: *Dominguez. Scotland A:* Try: Redpath. Pens: Shepherd 3, Townsend

(in Rieti)

Under-21 international

Italy 10 Scotland 31

Italy: Try: Comperti. Con: Mazzariol. Pen: Mazzariol Scotland: Tries: Murray, Reed, Smith, 2 penalty try. Cons: McVie 4. Pens: McVie.

(in Rieti)

International

United States 18 Ireland 25

United States: Tries: Tardits, Walker Con: Alexander. Pen: Alexander. Dropped goal: Alexander. Ireland: Try: Wallace. Con: Elwood. Pens: Elwood 3, Burke 3.

(in Atlanta)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bath 14 Leicester 15

Bath: Try: Adebayo. Pens: Callard 3. Leicester: Pens: Liley 5.

Gloucester 17 West Hartlepool 18

Gloucester: Try: Beim. Pens: Osborne, T Smith 3 West Hartlepool: Tries: Shelley, Stimpson. Pens: Simpson 2.

Harlequins 26 Bristol 3

Harlequins: Tries: Bromley, Kilchin 3, Watson Pen: Catling. Bristol: Dropped goal: Thomas.

Sale 39 Orrell 13

Sale: Tries: Baldwin, C Yates, Higginbotham, Vyvyan, Warr Cons: Liley 4 Dropped goals: Turner 2. Orrell: Tries: Luger, Wynn. Pen: Mason.

Saracens 20 Wasps 24

Saracens: Try: Tunningley. Pens: Lee 5, Wasps: Tries: Penalty try, Gomarsall, P Hopley. Cons: Gregory 3. Pen: Gregory.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	11	10	0	1	342	184	20
Leicester	11	9	0	2	253	139	18
Harlequins	11	7	0	4	262	205	14
Wasps	10	6	0	4	229	190	12
Sale	11	5	0	6	224	187	12
Bristol	11	5	0	6	188	254	10
Orrell	11	5	0	6	178	253	10
Saracens	11	4	0	7	177	292	8
Gloucester	11	2	0	9	182	254	4
W Hartlepool	10	0	0	10	156	243	0

LEADING SCORERS: 184: M Corcoran (London Irish) 8 tries, 25 conversions, 33 penalty goals) 132: P Grayson (Northampton, 2t, 49c, 8pg) 103: S Howard (Blackheath, 2t, 9c, 20pg, 5 dropped goals) 95: M Jackson (Wakefield, 10c, 25pg) 81: A Finnie (Bedford; 1t, 14c, 13pg, 3dg) 78: A Ivan (Moseley, 5t, 4c, 13pg, 2dg), 75: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham, 8c, 20pg, 1dg) 74: J Steele (London Scottish; 2t, 11c, 12pg, 2dg) 70: M Allen (Northampton) 12: G 14: Allen. 13: G Seely (Northampton) 12: Townsend (Northampton) 8; Corcoran. 7: M Dods (Northampton), M Oliver (Bedford), C O'Shea (London Irish)

Third division

Morley 10 Rotherham 11

Morley: Try: Emmerson Con: Grayshon Dropped goal: Grayshon. Rotherham: Try: Rick. Pens: Plant 2

Otley 5 Coventry 29

Otley: Pen: Rutledge. Dropped goal: Hawkins. Coventry: Tries: Eves, Gee, Horroben, Lydster, Woodman, Cons: Quick 2.

Reading 3 Richmond 5

Reading: Pen: Dance. Richmond: Try: Short.

Rosslyn Park 21 Fylde 12

Rosslyn Park: Tries: Blake, Milward Con: Rowland. Pens: Rowland 2. Dropped goal: Rowland. Fylde: Tries: Hanavan, penalty try Con: Parker.

Rugby 25 Harrogate 19

Rugby: Tries: Jenkins, Pell, Revan, Saunders. Con: Quantrill. Pen: Quantrill Harrogate: Try: Hopkinson. Con: Zoing. Pens: Zoing 3. Dropped goal: Zoing

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Richmond	9	8	0	1	265	110	16
Coventry	9	7	0	2	171	115	14
Rugby	9	6	0	3	194	133	12
Morley	9	4	1	4	158	157	9
Otley	9	4	1	4	125	189	9
Rotherham	9	4	0	5	165	195	8
Rosslyn Park	9	3	1	5	153	173	7
Harrogate	9	3	1	5	169	225	7
Reading	9	3	1	5	194	211	6
Fylde	9	1	0	8	134	220	2

LEADING SCORERS: 129: R Zoing (Harrogate; 2 tries, 10 conversions, 31 penalty goals, 2 dropped goal), 115: J Gregory (Richmond; 2t, 18c, 23pg) 108: J Grayshon (Morley, 1t, 8c, 26pg, 3dg), 101: J Quantrill (Rugby; 3t, 10c, 22pg), 82: C Quick (Coventry; 1t, 7c, 21pg). Tries: 8: A Boyd (Richmond), E Saunders (Rugby). 4: M Fitzgerald (Richmond), C Phillips (Reading)

Fourth division

Aspatria	25	Plymouth	24
Clifton	17	Redruth	8
Havant	18	Leeds	15
Liverpool St H	28	Walsall	15
London Welsh	11	Exeter	16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
London Welsh	9	8	0	1	259	100	16
Exeter	9	8	0	1	213	111	16
Liverpool St H	9	6	1	2	247	138	13
Walsall	9	5	0	4	217	170	10
Redruth	9	4	1	4	187	182	9
Havant	9	4	1	4	141	180	9
Leeds	9	2	1	6	134	200	5
Clifton	9	2	0	7	105	165	4
Aspatria	9	2	0	7	122	208	4
Plymouth	9	2	0	7	118	289	4

Fifth division north

Broughton Park	10	Stourbridge	24
Lichfield	17	Kendal	16
Preston G	24	Worcester	34
Sandal	6	Winnington Park	13
Sheffield	19	Nuneaton	13
Wharfedale	18	Stoke	16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wharfedale	7	7	0	0	138	67	14
Worcester	8	6	0	2	218	129	12
Winnington P	8	6	0	2	159	149	12
Birmingham	7	5	0	2	137	106	10
Sheffield	8	5	0	3	131	138	10
Stourbridge	8	4	0	4	144	113	8
Sandal	7	3	0	4	112	105	6
Kendal	7	3	0	4	133	127	6
Preston G	7	3	0	4	102	129	6
Lichfield	8	3	0	5	111	153	6
Nuneaton	7	2	0	5	118	214	4
Stoke	7	1	0	6	98	117	2
Broughton P	7	0	0	7	78	133	0

Fifth division south

Camberley	23	Askeans	8
Henley	23	High Wycombe	9
Met Police	6	Berry Hill	12
North Walsham	9	Camborne	7
Tabard	17	Lydney	17
Weston-s-Mare	10	Cheltenham	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lydney	7	6	1	0	170	58	13
Weston	7	6	0	1	120	66	12
Barking	7	5	0	2	119	91	10
Camberley	8	4	1	3	114	126	9
Henley	7	4	0

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

Mkt cap (millions)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
9,957.20	ABN-AMRO	295½	+ 3½	4.3	11.0
8,514.00	Abbey Nat	645	+ 9	3.7	12.5
2,433.00	Allied Irish	365	+ 14	4.0	10.6
4,397.90	Aus New Z	710	+ 7	5.1	
14,373.10	Bank America	4108½	+ 81½		
3,457.40	Bank Scotland	759	+ 12	2.6	13.0
12,405.60	Barclays	771	+ 22	3.6	10.5
2,282.20	Bk of Ireland	469	+ 8	3.5	9.6
149.00	Cater Allen	457	+ 33	8.2	7.6
16,617.40	Citicorp	4328½	+ 68½		
338.00	Close Bros	978	+ 8	3.3	14.5
5,486.30	Commercial	1753½	+ 9½	3.5	
29,775.10	De Kzn Kan '	1275	+ 16½	0.4	
14,857.90	Deutsche Gr	3125	+ 50	2.4	
134.30	Ecsmb Sanb	620½	+ 34½	5.6	8.4
52,043.00	Fst Bank Y	1451¼	+ 13¼	0.4	
227.50	Ground Shr	467	+ 23	6.8	19.1
376.60	Hambros	713	+ 7	4.4	
8,806.40	HSBC	1024	+ 18	3.4	13.3
17,714.50	HSBC Hr	998	+ 16	3.5	13.0
309.10	Irish Perm	405	+ 6	3.0	9.4
74.00	Jersey (L)	151	+ 5	5.2	25.3
38.80	King Shaxson	151	+ 8	7.5	11.7
16,253.20	Lloyds TSB	380	- 11½		
8,538.70	Nat Fncl Bk	605	+ 29		6.6
11,562.70	Nat West	664	+ 5	4.1	10.3
125.00	Oriental Bank	2930			6.6
30.50	Rea Brothers	64	- 1		2.0
4,637.90	Rgl Bk Scot	574	- 12	3.5	13.0
2,051.20	Schroders	1365	- 3	1.1	19.4
487.50	Schroders NV	1100	- 15	1.6	15.8
215.10	Singer & Fried	109		4.2	11.3
5,587.20	Stand Chart	576	+ 28	2.0	14.5
25.80	Union	97	+ 11½		
7,143.20	Wells Fargo	7139½	- 108½	2.1	
5,163.90	Westpac	394½	- 19½	4.7	
21.60	Wintrust	379		5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

76.50	Scott Hldgs	277	+ 13		0.6
6,434.30	Bass†	732	+ 13	3.9	
572.70	Boddingtons	471	- 1	2.4	24.2
26.90	Burtonwd Brwt	171	- 1	3.8	17.1
40.30	Chrlstge P 'A'	194		3.0	
64.90	Fuller Sm 'A'	416		2.6	17.8
1,706.20	Greenalls Gp	577	- 11	3.1	
264.60	Greene King	634	+ 1	2.3	16.6
66.20	Hardy Hanrs	331	+ 31	3.9	
3.59	Hawthrne	155		4.5	10.9
56.60	Holt J	3115	+ 10	2.2	16.7
249.60	Mitchells	317	+ 1	2.1	15.9
287.70	Morton Thorpe	148	+ 13	2.9	15.1
149.80	Morland	545	+ 10	2.7	
7.41	Paramount	6½		4.4	10.0
108.90	Regent Inns	689	+ 31	1.3	27.1
7,234.40	SA Breweries	2486½	+ 106½	1.4	22.9
3,737.70	Scot & Newc	613		3.8	16.5
	Scot & Nwc P/P	330			
20.50	Tom Cobleigh	238	+ 13	1.5	37.0
266.60	Vaux Group	375	- 7	4.6	14.4
235.30	Wetherspoon JD	543	+ 1	1.5	26.1
2,364.40	Whitbread†	998	+ 17½	3.7	17.2
397.50	Wolvrhmptn Dt	586	+ 16	3.2	
116.60	Yates Bros	301	- 2	1.3	26.8
12.50	Young 'A'	431	- 5	4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

54.20	Abbey	140	+ 5	4.7	9.0
12.00	Albert	253	+ 2	3.4	16.6
194.80	Anwic	96	+ 2	3.9	20.2
36.50	Andrew Sykes	256			
169.30	Ashtead	185	+ 12	7.7	18.3
11.10	Ayrshire	38	- 2	12.6	4.6
2.62	Bailey (Geo) Cnr	50		5.2	5.1
16.70	Barcomi	36	+ 1	1.0	
481.30	Barratt Dev	361	+ 14	3.6	16.3
511.10	Beazer Homes	182	+ 5	4.0	13.1
270.20	Bellway	474	+ 15	3.5	13.2
6.12	Bellwinch	18		1.4	9.7
397.60	Berkeley Gp	912	+ 11	1.9	10.9
35.60	Bett Brost	171		3.9	6.1
120.00	Bett (Harry)	165	- 3	4.9	6.7
20.50	Blandss Hldg	265	- 2	2.9	17.1
5.24	Britannia Gp	23		8.7	4.5
4.60	Br Bldg & Eng	41	+ 10		
314.80	Bryant	1121/2	+ ½	5.6	10.2
37.50	CALA	88		4.5	8.5
2.30	Campbell & Ann	16	- 1		12.7
5.17	Clarke T	42		12.1	15.1
37.50	Costain	87	+ 1		
45.80	Countryside	88	+ 2	6.8	
56.40	Crest Nicholsn	57	+ 2½	4.4	8.0
13.90	Cussons	72		6.1	6.8
12.90	Eve Group	183	- 15	6.2	9.8
16.00	Galliford	18		5.5	36.6
74.50	Glenrose (Alb)	738		2.5	14.0
4.62	Green (Eric)	60	- 1	10.5	26.1
71.50	Hardy& Exce	272	+ 2	1.5	22.9
379.00	Hawtin-Stuart	197		2.5	14.6
55.60	Hepp & Hill	84	+ 1	3.7	21.4
3.96	Howard Hldgs	15		6.7	17.5
3.59	Howitts	155		4.5	10.9
99.60	Hull J	3115	+ 10	2.2	16.7
264.60	Mccrdcks	317	+ 1	2.1	15.9
49.70	Mercon Thmpt	148	+ 13	2.9	15.1
149.80	Morland	545	+ 10	2.7	
7.41	Paramount	6½		4.4	10.0
108.90	Regent Inns	689	+ 31	1.3	27.1
7,234.40	SA Breweries	2486½	+ 106½	1.4	22.9
3,737.70	Scot & Newc	613		3.8	16.5
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2,364.40	Whitbread†	998	+ 17½	3.7	17.2
397.50	Wolvrhmptn Dt	586	+ 16	3.2	
116.60	Yates Bros	301	- 2	1.3	26.8
12.50	Young 'A'	431	- 5	4.4	17.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

9.05	Aberdeen	12½			
162.40	Alumasc	400		2.2	17.3
1,907.60	BPB Ind†	399	- 3	3.5	13.9
43.90	Bagnridge Brk	111	- 1	3.6	
126.10	Baggeridge	153		7.5	16.2
8.00	Bardsys	48	+ 1	1.0	
2,545.50	Blue Circle	347	+ 4½	4.2	15.8
21.90	Brockhn PLC	77		7.8	16.7
13.20	W Pedgrop	110	+ 2	6.4	14.4
7,723.70	CRH	672	+ 4	1.7	18.2
4.50	Cambrood Pbr	32	- 1	3.4	
76.50	Cape	149		9.8	10.9
1,332.74	Caradon	218	+ 2½	3.4	11.3
2.62	Carlton Cl	2½		11.1	
1.91	Carlton Gp	21	+ 2	1.9	
1.91	Carlton Utsn	4	+ ½	3.7	15.1
11.24	Carron A	47		6.1	6.8
11.24	Carron B	47			
1.84	Clarke S Lancy	39½		4.4	
31.50	Cookson	313		3.3	17.8
31.60	Costain	87	+ 1	3.3	14.2
251.40	Ellis & Everard	265	+ 6	4.1	14.9
31.70	Ennis Colourd	34		2.9	20.6
19.30	Galiford	18?	+ 3	4.2	15.4
142.50	Hanson	2??	+ 1	3.1	17.3
10,584.70	Hepworth	5?8½	- 13½	3.6	
171.10	Hoskins Chrn	164		3.8	11.7
5.04	Ibstock	83	+ 3½	4.4	15.5
386.60	Ibstock	384	+ 2	1.9	23.1
426.80	Kalon	2??	+ 8	4.8	12.7
1,291.60	Lafarge	3??	+ 5	4.3	13.8
21.10	MFI'S	3??	+ 3	2.5	14.5
112.60	Marshalls	3??	+ 6	4.9	12.8
8.90	Marshall	3??		5.1	14.0
22,528.50	Meyer Int	4?½	+ 1	4.7	19.2
36.20	Ferrer	2??		1.8	25.7
536.40	Pilkington	2??		3.5	15.8
1,705.20	Redland	3??	- 1	5.4	11.9
16.15	Rmsay	9??	- 1	5.7	9.6
1,629.00	Rmc Group	1??	- 4	4.5	11.3
1,705.20	Redland	3??	- 1	5.4	11.9
16.15	Rmsay	9??	- 1	5.7	9.6
1,629.00	Rmc Group	1??	- 4	4.5	11.3
86.20	Ferrer	2??		1.8	25.7
536.40	Pilkington	2??		3.5	15.8
42.10	Schlctr Systms	28	- 1	2.1	34.6
9,466.20	Tarmac Group	1??	- 3½	7.8	14.2
21.50	Wagenmre R	2??	- 1	2.8	16.7
119.10	Tarmac Chem	2??	+ 5	4.1	12.7
372.10	Wm Colls	3??	+ 13	2.5	15.8

BUSINESS SERVICES

6.13	Anglo Ltd	9½			
25.50	Ash Nttn	98			
3.50	Bailey (Chr)	4½			
9.71	Black Arrow	33	- 2	10.6	6.5
3.67	Br Bloodstock	33	- 1		30.0
2.15	Card Sp	3½			
3.62	Clarkson	3?½	- 1½	2.1	
16.50	Corp Expss	150	- 4	2.6	
74.60	Fitches	1??	- 5	1.5	17.3
4.99	Hemdsley	31	- 2		29.2
152.00	Hunters	4??	- 1	2.6	16.4
15.40	Lright	3??	- 1	8.3	11.7
124.00	Mellon Co	1??		4.2	13.5
89.00	Pizza-Ma	1??	- 5	4.2	13.0
17.50	Plant & Sn	9??		6.8	6.1
1.65	Rodime	3½			
171.30	Shanks & McEwan	9??	+ 4	4.6	13.2
13.50	Sector (Wm)	1??		9.2	12.3
3.10	Sidemasque Wt	4??	- 10		
1,295.70	Waste Mgt Int	3??	- 2		13.0
49.20	Waste Recyc	1??	- 2	7.7	17.7

CHEMICALS

496.10	Allergan & Sh	1??	+ 12	4.4	18.0
112.90	Allied Colloids	1??		2.4	29.5
32.60	Arbrth Ind†	2??		3.4	13.5
81.30	Ashland-Sp	1??		2.4	19.8
8,952.30	BASF Ltd	1?4?	- 25??	3.2	
4,386.70	BOC†	7??	+ 11	3.7	17.6
459.20	BTP	3??	+ 15	4.9	16.3
12,571.60	Bayer (DM50	1?7½	- 27½	3.3	
102.80	Bhagwn	1??	- 1		
57.50	Brnt Chemn	2??	- 14	4.7	12.1
478.50	Br Vita	2??	+ 3	4.5	13.9
68.40	Cmnsky Cpr	4??		4.6	13.6
1,729.30	Crmtcaldnf	4??	+ 20	4.6	19.5
459.50	Croda	3??	+ 5	4.3	15.0
31.60	Dentsply	3??	+ 1	3.3	14.2
251.40	Ellis & Everard	2??	+ 6	4.1	14.9
31.70	Ems Colourd	3??		2.9	20.6
19.30	Gchem	1??	+ 3	4.2	15.4
142.50	Hanson	2??	+ 1	3.1	17.3
10,584.70	Hepworth	5?8½	- 13½	3.6	
171.10	Hoskins Chrn	164		3.8	11.7
5.04	Ibstock	83	+ 3½	4.4	15.5
386.60	Ibstock	384	+ 2	1.9	23.1
426.80	Kalon	2??	+ 8	4.8	12.7
1,291.60	Lafarge	3??	+ 5	4.3	13.8
21.10	MFI'S	3??	+ 3	2.5	14.5
112.60	Marshalls	3??	+ 6	4.9	12.8
8.90	Marshall	3??		5.1	14.0
22,528.50	Meyer Int	4?½	+ 1	4.7	19.2
36.20	Ferrer	2??		1.8	25.7
536.40	Pilkington	2??		3.5	15.8
42.10	Schlctr Systms	28	- 1	2.1	34.6
9,466.20	Tarmac Group	1??	- 3½	7.8	14.2
21.50	Wagenmre R	2??	- 1	2.8	16.7
119.10	Tarmac Chem	2??	+ 5	4.1	12.7
372.10	Wm Colls	3??	+ 13	2.5	15.8

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (millions)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
30.40	Alt Los	82	- 1	5.9	9.4
18.70	Adam & Harvy	435	- 8	5.6	5.7
6.45	Alexanders	16		6.5	26.3
66.90	Appleyard	102	+ 2	7.5	10.8
9.19	Asc Br Eng	3½		2.1	28.5
134.10	BSS Group†	510	- 15	4.8	14.8
52.10	Bensr	57	- 1		
5.84	Bonsey Power†	15½		9.5	11.8
1.26	Bryant 'A'	26		3.4	9.3
195.20	Bunzl	458		3.9	16.5
4.95	Bridgend Gaf	18		3.8	14
20.70	Brit Telmgs	67	+ 2	4.6	13.2
8.09	Cattysnt	245		5.9	16.5
10.50	Central Mk	77	+ 2	4.5	20.9
23.60	Cook (DC)	55	- 1	3.9	8.1
477.10	Cooper	797	- 10	4.0	12.8
30.50	Dng Motors	128		7.1	10.4
22.20	Dominions Gl	595		1.9	11.1
215.80	Diploma†	386	- 5	4.7	
1,462.90	Electrocomponnt	246	- 14	2.2	23.5
164.10	Eurpcts Elec	264	- 1	4.0	20.7
33.80	Evered&Hart	96	+ 1	14.1	4.2
51.50	Exmpean Mint	96		6.8	8.2
92.10	Evans Halshaw	287	+ 1	6.6	8.9
964.30	Farnell Elect	707	- 12	1.7	20.6
61.80	FSA Ind	154	+ 1	1.3	16.9
1,378.10	Hadcpage	261	+ 12	7.2	23.7
6.46	Jacks (Wm)	60		1.6	11.4
306.00	Kwik-Fit	177	+ 8	3.2	15.1
364.20	Lex Service	322	+ 16	5.6	17.2
28.90	Lookers	146	- 1	6.4	8.2
17.30	Malcms Gp	107½	- 1	5.7	14.3
54.20	Mkelmore	9	- 1	2.7	22.5
23.70	Mitchams	43	- ½	4.2	27.7
59.40	Nichlsn(J)	465		1.9	16.7
253.00	Nthumbrlnd	253		0.9	20.4
12.20	PCT	137		7.0	9.8
104.80	Pendragon	273	+ 1	3.8	14.3
37.20	Perry Gp	147	+ 1	6.5	11.1
31.20	Qdata Group	139	+ 4	4.5	34.1
16.50	RSA	185		2.7	22.5
4.67	Rmca	2½			
25.50	Rexson	57	+ 1	2.7	11.6
5.17	Rmx Gp	3½			
47.70	SSP Intl	53	- ½	3.8	
32.40	Sidlaw	12½	- ½		7.1
139.40	Tnsr Products†	261	+ 14	4.4	15.3
128.00	Vndy (Hldg)	273		2.6	17.3
45.50	Wholesale Pkg	225		4.5	20.3
54.40	Wilcznski	56½	- 3	1.7	13.9
39.70	Wyko	78		2.0	77.5
18.10	Young (Hl)†	103		4.5	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

88.70	Abbeyd	121		9.1	6.7
450.00	Abbeyspcls	250	- 3	20.0	12.5
16,931.60	Broken Hill	929	+ 17	2.6	21.4
12,500.00	BTR	3317½	- 2½	5.2	14.4
17,228.60	BAT	567	- 10½	5.1	12.7
924.40	Bergland Intl	214	+ 10	1.8	
181.30	Bibby (J)	116	+ 1	6.2	9.3
1,427.50	Blumley Inv	57½	+ 2½	8.1	2.9
759.50	Charter	674	+ 11	3.6	14.1
2,040.00	Chelsea	300	- 6	3.6	14.7
80.30	Cookson Hdg	130		3.6	14.7
10,437.80	Hanson†	201	+ 8½	7.5	11.0
1,101.40	Hanton Cnsld	155	- 5	7.3	16.5
15,145.40	Hutch Whamp	1?4	+ 27½	1.9	22.5
3,444.00	Inchcape	4??	+ 30½	2.5	4.6
4.88	Jourdan (TH)	38	- 1	6.0	7.1
1,429.50	Lonrho	184	+ 8½	3.1	254
161.60	McLeod Russell	166	- 1	3.6	4.8
52.50	Mradlsn	223	+ 1	2.4	12.5
10,437.80	Hanson†	201	+ 8½	7.5	11.0
1,101.40	Hanton Cnsld	155	- 5	7.3	16.5
15,145.40	Hutch Whamp	1?4	+ 27½	1.9	22.5
3,444.00	Inchcape	4??	+ 30½	2.5	4.6
4.88	Jourdan (TH)	38	- 1	6.0	7.1
1,429.50	Lonrho	184	+ 8½	3.1	254
161.60	McLeod Russell	166	- 1	3.6	4.8
52.50	Mradlsn	223	+ 1	2.4	12.5
761.90	Hanlys	49?		7.5	11.0
4.15	Headers Tech	133		5.6	25.3
61.80	HSA Ind	154	+ 1	1.3	16.9
1,378.10	Inchcape	261	+ 12	7.2	23.7
6.46	Jacks (Wm)	60		1.6	11.4
306.00	Kwik-Fit	177	+ 8	3.2	15.1
364.20	Lex Service	322	+ 16	5.6	17.2
28.90	Lookers	146	- 1	6.4	8.2
17.30	Malcms Gp	107½	- 1	5.7	14.3
54.20	Mkelmore	9	- 1	2.7	22.5
23.70	Mitchams	43	- ½	4.2	27.7
59.40	Nichlsn(J)	465		1.9	16.7
253.00	Nthumbrlnd	253		0.9	20.4
12.20	PCT	137		7.0	9.8
104.80	Pendragon	273	+ 1	3.8	14.3
37.20	Perry Gp	147	+ 1	6.5	11.1
31.20	Qdata Group	139	+ 4	4.5	34.1
16.50	RSA	185		2.7	22.5
4.67	Rmca	2½			
25.50	Rexson	57	+ 1	2.7	11.6
5.17	Rmx Gp	3½			
47.70	SSP Intl	53	- ½	3.8	
32.40	Sidlaw	12½	- ½		7.1
139.40	Tnsr Products†	261	+ 14	4.4	15.3
128.00	Vndy (Hldg)	273		2.6	17.3
45.50	Wholesale Pkg	225		4.5	20.3
54.40	Wilcznski	56½	- 3	1.7	13.9
39.70	Wyko	78		2.0	77.5
18.10	Young (Hl)†	103		4.5	

ELECTRICITY

1,288.60	East Midlands†	648	- 19	5.7	8.6
2,422.50	Eastern Gp	973		3.6	13.0
1,108.10	London Elec†	758	- 16	6.1	9.7
1,944.20	Midlands Elec	775	+ 17	6.1	9.7
3,348.20	Nthmbrld Gold	796	- 1½	7.1	8.9
4,944.50	Nthmbrld Power	636	- 13½	4.7	9.8
5,704.90	Nat Power P/P†	638	- 15½	4.6	9.2
624.10	Northern Elec†	631	+ 4	6.9	6.3
567.40	Nthn Ireland	419	+ 14	4.4	9.1
1,601.00	Norweb	1??		5.5	10.2
3,734.60	Powergen	513	- 19½	4.1	9.4
7,307.50	PowerGen (P/P)	197	- 24½	4.1	11.3
1,790.80	Hydro-Elec	353	+ 2½	5.0	9.9
1,967.80	Scottish Power	383	+ 12	4.7	10.3
1,250.30	Scottpwr	527	+ 1	3.4	11.3
876.00	Sth Wales	944	+ 7	4.5	8.8
2,486.10	Southern Elec	911	+ 7	4.5	11.6
1,228.30	Yorkshire Elec	885	- 2½	6.7	7.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

107.10	Acal†	365	+ 1	1.7	20.2
213.00	Acorn Comp	2??	+ 5		
31.20	Aeva	1??	+ 1	1.3	21.6
131.50	Alba	2??	- 2	3.5	17.9
219.70	Amstrad	1??	- 11	1.7	
26.00	Arlen	3??		1.1	12.1
359.00	Action	11??	+ ½	1.4	18.0
132.50	Aden	4??	- 11	0.8	23.0
1,055.50	BICC	2??	+ 22	5.2	17.5
23.50	Beales Hunter	2??	+ 2	5.7	11.9
41.70	Bibby	4??	+ 10	1.8	
179.00	Blackmore	4??	+ 3	3.5	18.4
6.30	Bulgin (AF) 'A	2½	+ ½	2.1	9.6
24.70	CML Micro	13?		5.7	13.9
24.60	Channel Rdgs	2??		6.1	7.6
67.60	Chlmsfrd	23½	+ ½	1.8	30.7
12.50	Clayhithe	2??	- 2	5.8	11.9
94.80	Coy Elect	4??		4.7	
99.00	Coutchey†	86½	+ 2½	1.8	22.7
1,151.30	Dares Es Syst	388	- 5	6.4	31.3
569.40	Delta	3??	- 1	4.9	13.7
107.60	Domino	4??		3.1	13.2
95.60	Dowding Mills	9?		5.4	17.6
166.40	Dtech	2??½	+ 2½	0.7	34.0
1,990.20	Electrdta 'B'	2??½	+ 15½	0.4	4.3
33.60	Exmoor	21½		0.4	8.4
10,769.90	Ericsson 'B'	12?5	- 37½	1.5	8.6
25.10	Eurocopy	42		4.1	
498.20	Eurotherm†	5?6	+ 7	1.7	
147.00	Fancy Group	9??	+ 4	1.7	25.7
186.80	Filtronic Com	4?9	- 57	0.2	20.2
66.10	Forward Tech	6??	- 13	1.3	27.2
31.10	Fremell Tech	9??		3.5	12.6
9,941.30	GEC†	3??	+ 6	4.0	12.1
85.90	Geeshy	1??	+ 1	5.2	11.5
43.70	Gd Control	1??	+ 1	4.2	21.4
10.70	Gooch	2??	+ 1	3.5	34.5
106.90	Kenwood App	2??	+ 3	5.4	16.3
9.40	Kode	9?			
3.06	LPA Ind	3?		6.2	24.2
50.70	MTI Ind	2??		2.1	15.6
126.50	Marconi-Sn	2??	- 1	2.5	15.3
37.10	Micronmy	4??		2.2	18.5
43.50	Mtrl	2??			
202.50	Oxford Ins	2??	- 7	1.8	16.3
24.50	Racal Systems	1??	- 2½	2.5	21.1
14.80	Redstone	1??		3.4	17.5
97.50	Renishaw	4??	- 1	1.2	25.0
14.80	Rainford	1??		2.5	12.2
49.10	Readicut	1??			
9.00	Scantronic	4??			
43.50	Silverwing	6??	- 1	2.3	17.5
42.00	Soundtrac	1??		7.2	9.2
67.70	Spectr	1??		2.1	21.1
76.60	Spirent	1??	- 1	2.1	19.3
475.70	Racal†	1??	- 16	2.0	21.4
28.00	Hampson Ind	2??	- 5		9.2
4.88	Hay (Maurice)	1??			
37.50	Hill & Smith	1??			
26.00	Hopkinsons	2??			
14.70	How Sp	1??			
207.00	Howden	2??	+ 4	4.9	9.2
134.50	Hunting	1??	+ 4	2.3	17.5
1,106.70	IMI	8??	- 6½	6.3	24.1
24.50	Johnson & Fitz	1??		1.1	24.5
1,143.20	Johnson Matth†	1??	+ 6	3.0	15.4
17.50	Jones Stephens	1??			
624.10	Northern Elec†	6?1	+ 4	6.9	6.3
567.40	Nthn Ireland	4??	+ 14	4.4	9.1
1,601.00	Norweb	1??		5.5	10.2
3,734.60	Powergen	5??	- 19½	4.1	9.4
7,307.50	PowerGen (P/P)	1??	- 24½	4.1	11.3
1,790.80	Hydro-Elec	3??	+ 2½	5.0	9.9
1,967.80	Scottish Power	3??	+ 12	4.7	10.3
1,250.30	Scottpwr	5??	+ 1	3.4	11.3
876.00	Sth Wales	9??	+ 7	4.5	8.8
2,486.10	Southern Elec	9??	+ 7	4.5	11.6
1,228.30	Yorkshire Elec	8??	- 2½	6.7	7.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

4.65	AAF Inds	21	- 4		
23.10	Aerlinx Sheam	2??		3.7	6.3
15.60	Aerospace	4?½	+ ½	3.8	12.1
129.40	Aaron Rubbert	48?	- 4	4.6	
1,241.40	BBA	3???	+ 10½	2.1	
177.60	BSG	6?½	+ 2½	6.6	12.8
261.50	Babcock	2??½	- ½	7.5	
827.00	Morgan Chlet	2??	+ 13	4.2	17.4
33.00	Morris Ashbyt	2?5	+ 4	3.2	14.3
13.00	Morganite†	5?	- ½	3.8	11.2
13.70	Hardcastles	5?	+ 1	4.2	10.4
10.50	Hill Ind	14½		6.5	
347.50	Powerscreen†	3??	+ 3½	2.7	14.5
18.70	Derby Inc	16?		14.4	
13.50	Prospect Inds	4½	- ½	18.3	
0.88	Radiant Mdsl	5?			
71.20	Ramsomds▲	2??	- 2½		
21.20	Record	2??	- 2½	7.3	12.4

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Caliuna, Ellis & Everard, Merchants Trust (C3), Universal Salvage, Westport Group and Williamson Tea Holdings. **Finals:** A G Barr, Inspirations and Treatt.
Economic statistics: Consumer credit for November, full monetary statistics which include: bank and building society balance sheets; final M4 and lending; personal borrowing; public sector funding; money market, sterling commercial paper and medium-term note issue, interest and exchange rates for December.

TOMORROW

Interims: Bespak, Tomorrows Leisure, Universal Salvage and VHE Holdings. **Finals:** French.
Economic statistics: Advance energy statistics for November.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Apta Healthcare, Sidney C Banks, Dixons Group, Ewart, First Spanish IT, Fleming International High Income, Ryland Group and Savills. **Finals:** Jersey Electricity and M & W.
Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions for November, balance of visible trade for October, cyclical indicators for December.

THURSDAY

Interims: Carpetright, Cassidy Brothers, Coral Products, GGT Group, Jones Stroud (Holdings), Jurys Hotel, Matthew Clark and PSIT. **Finals:** Denmans Electrical, Lonrho, Robert H Lowe and RCO Holdings.
Economic statistics: Labour market trends, index of production for November.

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled. **Finals:** Dawson Holdings.
Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades for December.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** British Land, Weir; **Sell** RMC. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Pentland, Courtaulds Textiles; **Sell** Carpetright. *Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** Aspen Communications, Newman Tonks; **Avoid** British Gas. *The Observer*: **Buy** BP, Bass, BA. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Chubb, Aromascan; **Avoid** Electronic Data Processing

COMPANIES  PHILIP PANGALOS

Healthy start expected at Dixons

DIXONS GROUP: One of this week's highlights will be Wednesday's interim figures and an all-important trading statement from the electrical goods retailer that owns the Dixons, Currys and PC World chains.

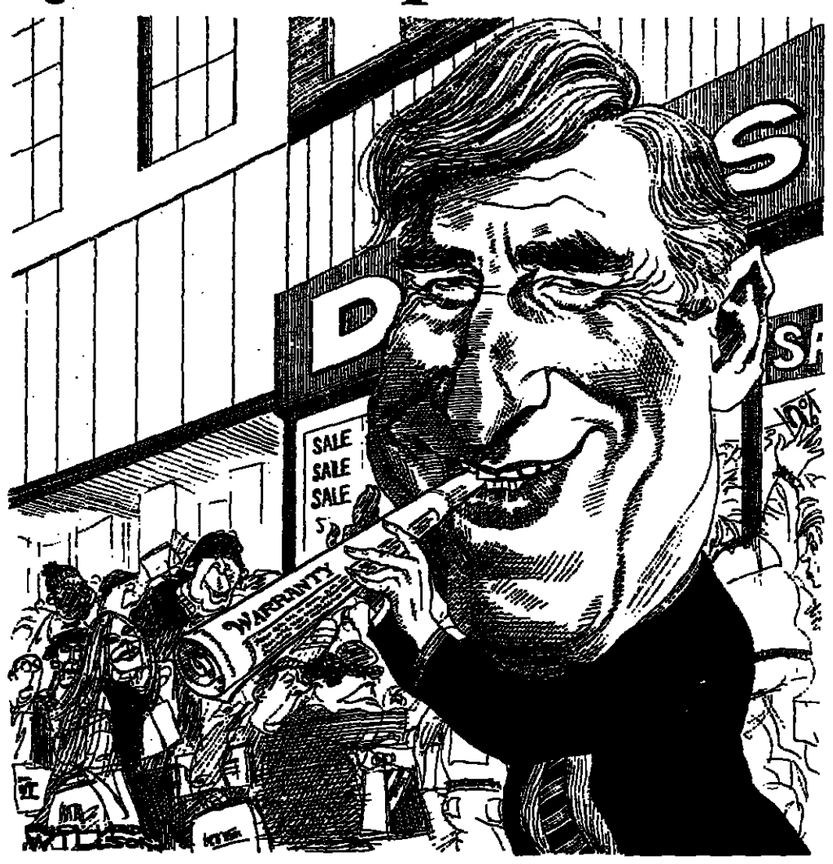
First-half profits will show a healthy advance, but attention will focus on what Sir Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman who was knighted in the New Year Honour's List, will say about trading in the key Christmas and new year sales period.

UBS expects the group, which recently regained its place in the FT-SE 100 index, to turn in interim pre-tax profits of £40 million in the six months to the October 31, compared with £26.6 million previously. Market forecasts range from £35 million to £44 million. An improved interim dividend of 2.1p (1.8p) is predicted.

The group is expected to enjoy healthy like-for-like sales growth at a time when other retailers struggle to sell lap-top computers and personal hi-fi against fierce competition and depressed consumer spending. Its main rival, Comet, owned by Kingfisher, has been struggling in this climate and a growing number of regional electricity companies have been pulling out of electrical retailing.

Dixons, which has concentrated on cutting costs and boosting profits by moving many stores out of town, told analysts at a presentation in November that it expected the PC World personal computer chain would make sales of £500 million in two to three years.

Attention will also focus on what the company has to say about extended warranties following renewed criticism about the value that these lucrative, but often over-priced, policies offer to customers.



Attention will focus on Dixons and Sir Stanley Kalms's view of extended warranties

LONRHO: The diversified international conglomerate, whose interests span mining, hotels and agriculture, should announce a healthy full-year profits advance on Thursday. However, analysts' attention will focus on current trading and expectations that the group will announce a possibledisentangling of its web of subsidiaries and a demerger of its mining activities.

A spin-off has been mooted since Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's founder, was ousted last March and Dieter Bock, the new man at the helm, set out to streamline Lonrho's businesses.

At the interim stage, the company said it might float off parts of the company with the mining or hotel interests — which include the Metropole hotels in Britain and the Princess chain in the US — seen as favourites for a possible spin-off.

Charles Pick, at Panmure Gordon, is looking for FRS3 pre-tax profits to advance to £147 million (£112 million), though clean profits, excluding an anticipated £10 million debit on textiles, should rise to £157 million (£108 million). Market forecasts range from £145 million to £150 million. A dividend of 5.75p (4.75p) is predicted.

The recent rise in the gold price should boost Ghana's Ashanti Goldfields, in which Lonrho has a 41 per cent stake. It has been in mining that Dieter Bock has most made his mark in the past year, actively expanding Lonrho's South African coal-mining operations and merging the group's platinum interests with those of Gencor to create the world's biggest platinum producer.

ELLIS & EVERARD: Analysts predict a rise in first-half profits at Ellis & Everard, the chemicals distributor, in spite of falling prices and destocking that has affected the industry. UBS expects interim pre-tax profits, due today, to climb to £12.3 million (£10.5 million), with a dividend of 3p (2.6p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £12 million to £12.5 million. Sales were strong in the first five months of the year, after healthy increases in Europe and America.

CARPETRIGHT: In spite of the grim state of the housing market, Carpetright, the carpet retailer headed by Sir Phil Harris, is expected to have held up well in the difficult trading conditions.

Interim pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, are expected to climb to £10 million (£8 million), according to UBS, with a dividend of 5p (3.9p) predicted.

MATTHEW CLARK: The fast-growing drinks group, which owns Gaymer cider and recently acquired Taunton Cider after a £271 million takeover bid, is expected to lift first-half pre-tax profits to £16.8 million (£7.2 million) when it reports on Thursday. An interim dividend of 9p (8p) is predicted. Attention will focus on current trading and the integration of Taunton.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spotlight on festive sales

THE most interesting British economic statistics come at the end of this week with November industrial production figures and the latest Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey. These should give the first hard evidence of the strength — or otherwise — of retail sales in the crucial Christmas period.

The industrial production figures on Thursday are not expected to sparkle, given recent survey evidence. The most recent CBI survey showed a sharp drop in output intentions and the purchasing managers' index, published a week ago, showed that manufacturing activity appeared to expand only marginally in December after its slight contraction in November.

The consensus forecast compiled by MMS International is for manufacturing output to rise by a marginal 0.1 per cent after its gain of 0.2 per cent in October. Industrial production is forecast to bounce back with a gain of 0.5 per cent after October's 0.9 per cent fall, which was largely weather-related.

Other British statistics published this week include today's final money data from the Bank of England for November, which includes an estimate for consumer credit. This has been growing strongly and November is expected to have seen another healthy increase.

On Wednesday, October figures for global visible trade are published. The median forecast from MMS International is for a deficit of £1.4 billion after a shortfall of £972 million in September.

One of the most contentious statistical areas is the US, where the shutdown of Government because of the budget impasse between the Administration and Congress means that hardly any numbers have been published. The only statistics expected are produced by the US Federal Reserve which will publish consumer credit figures today and the Atlanta Fed survey on Friday. Senior Fed officials and businessmen are concerned about the difficulties of making policy or commercial decisions with no economic data.

In Europe, events to watch out for include the Bank of France's press conference on monetary policy for 1996 which follows its first council meeting of the year. There will also be a number of statistical releases from Germany including unemployment, final cost-of-living figures for December and retail sales for November.

JANET BUSH

Bulls and bears and the prospect for Labour

GILT-EDGED

For the gilt market, 1996 will be dominated by two major themes — a decided fall in inflation and the growing fear of a Labour government. Yields will be caught in a tug of war between these two forces, but I believe that bullish sentiment will win out in the end, even though there will be some marked bear phases. I expect yields to end 1996 slightly below where they are now, whoever is in power — or looks likely to be in power over the next five years.

Inflation holds the key. It moved up last year, and many commentators thought that there were signs of a significant revival. However, in the end, the pick-up was contained, in spite of strong pressure from commodity prices and a weak pound.

Now, these upward impulses are dropping out and the inflation rate will reflect more closely the growth of unit labour costs. With average earnings growth of about 3½ per cent, and productivity growth continuing, the growth of unit labour costs is minimal.

Accordingly, I expect inflation to have fallen back by the middle of the year to 2½ per cent on the RPIX measure, and less than 2 per cent on the RPIY measure. In the context of Britain's inflationary history, these are remarkable figures and the gilt market will have to sit up and take notice.

The second half of the year may be dominated by political worries, and I expect to see a retreat from the market's highs. However, in my view, the scale of the threat to the market from a Labour government has been much exaggerated. Firstly, macro policy under Labour is likely to be little different from that under the Tories. The Labour leadership has undergone a philosophical revolution. They no longer believe in massive state spending and borrowing. Moreover, whatever they might think, their scope for action is tightly circumscribed by the power of financial markets and by Labour's likely concern to stick well within the Maastricht guidelines in order to at least be eligible to join EMU. Given these constraints, significant fiscal expansion is not on the cards. Government spending may well be somewhat higher, but if it is, I expect it to be matched by higher taxation.

Secondly, whatever danger Labour does present to the market has probably been largely discounted already.

This may seem surprising, but how could it be otherwise? Market participants can read opinion polls and take note of Commons majorities as well as anybody else. Whatever hopes they might harbour, they must have come to believe that we are likely to have a Labour government and, moreover, that we may have one sooner rather than later.

This is not mere surmise. It is backed up by the evidence of bond market performance last year. It is easy to see last year's bull run in gilts as mainly a response to improving UK fundamentals, but, in fact, gilts shared in a general rally in world bond markets. Indeed, of the 15 major bond markets we cover, gilts registered the lowest fall in yields in the whole group, in spite of the improving UK fundamentals. I think that this was largely because the market was taking account of the changing political situation.

The upshot, I believe, is that even a Labour government will do little to dent the bull market in gilts. And this holds out the prospect of further falls in yields once the market has digested the implications. Throughout the past 15 years, while both inflation and bond yields have been trending down, the bears have always been able to take comfort from the idea that a sharp policy change under a Labour government would see a return to the bad old days. If we get a Labour government and, as I believe, we still have low inflation, what else will there be to justify yields above 7 per cent? They will have to fall to levels unseen for a generation.

In this sense (but, you might think, in this sense only), what the gilt market needs now is a Labour government.

ROGER BOOTLE
HSBC Greenwell

Small firms' green record condemned

BY MARTIN WALLER

SMALL businesses, the backbone of any economic recovery, could be creating 70 per cent of Britain's air pollution, but only 12 per cent build the environment into their business plans, it has been claimed.

The warning comes from BMS Bossard, the management consultancy, backed by figures from the British Chamber of Commerce that suggest that only one in five small and medium-sized firms have encountered pressure from customers to improve their environmental performance.

BMS Bossard concludes, in a view that will not find much favour with the small business sector, that UK rules on planning and emissions are not strict enough and should be better enforced, particularly to counter small businesses' laxness in the area.

Ron Brender, managing director of the consultancy, says that big, blue chip companies take the environment more seriously. "Their size makes them a bigger media target so they are far more aware of public opinion and shareholder pressure," he said. "But in a small business, staff and resources are limited and the emphasis is on getting business in, rather than worrying about the environment."

In other EC countries, environmental controls on small firms are more comprehensive, he said.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	...	5.2	12.0
0.94	Abacus Recruit	18	...	...	...
18.40	A de Gruchy	125	+ 2	5.6	10.4
6.76	African Gold	8	+ ¾	...	...
	Albemarale & Bd	13¼	...	...	...
11.20	Alpha Omikron	20	+ 1	...	...
38.80	Ann St Brewery	405	− 5	5.4	12.2
5.24	Ann St Cv Pf	885	...	9.0	...
79.40	Antonov	113	− 8	...	...
11.70	Ask Central	73	...	...	...
	Atheiney Trust	60	...	...	...
4.37	Baris Hldgs	17	...	...	...
4.03	Belcanto	45	− 1	...	...
	Bowness Leis	145	...	...	...
	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
4.96	Brancote Hdgs	50	− 3	...	...
35.60	Brockbank	305	+ 65	2.6	30.5
	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
2.66	Cate Inns	95	...	2.6	7.8
8.52	Caledonian Tst	75	...	...	9.1
12.10	Card Clear	61	+ 1	...	...
3.96	Cassidy Bros	72	...	5.2	10.3
1.79	Cavendish W F	41	− 2	...	20.8
5.28	Celebrated Group	18	...	...	...
17.00	Celtic	6550	...	...	...
	Celtic Pf Shs	6550	+100	...	...
14.80	CI Comms(TV)	110	+ 1	2.8	14.0
5.56	Chartwell Intl	62	...	...	...
13.10	ClubPartners	31	...	...	...
12.20	Com de Pri Fin	510	...	...	...
7.99	Conister Tst	40	...	2.5	17.1
11.20	Country Edns	63	...	2.4	13.0
2.68	Cntry Edns Pf	73	...	9.1	...
38.40	Creos Intl	107	− 2	...	...
14.00	Crown Products	53	...	...	...
10.80	DBS Management	160	...	4.7	6.5
	Dalkeith Inns	36	+ 1	...	...
3.58	David Glass	66	...	5.5	9.4
39.80	Dawson Hldgs	870	+ 10	4.2	12.0
3.21	Dean Corp	11	...	...	64.3
14.10	Dimetek	75	...	...	...
129.40	Electrophoretics Intl	200	+ 15	...	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125	...	...	...
	Farfake	340	+ 15	...	...
1.77	Finl Publs	75	...	...	...
21.30	Firecrest	128	+ 6	...	55.7
5.88	Floral St	253	− 5	0.5	...
4.87	Flomenco	190	+ 2	...	17.3
17.00	Formscan	161	+ 25	1.6	20.9
4.65	Furlong Homes	93	...	3.2	5.0
25.00	Gander Hdgs	9	− ½	...	76.8
4.80	Greenhills	16	− 1	...	...
32.40	Guiton	145	...	3.4	13.1
4.18	Hansom	41	...	...	...
59.00	Hiscox Dad Ins	130	...	0.3	...
11.20	Indpt Radio	112	+ 3	...	...
14.70	Inner Workings	88	...	...	...
21.10	Intl Greetings	503	...	...	...
3.38	Jasmin	83	...	...	...
18.50	Jennings Bros	285	− 3	2.8	...
45.80	KS Biomedix	121	− 2	...	...
24.99	Lancashire Enterprises	139	...	3.7	...
14.20	Lawrence	233	+ 23	0.8	...
53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	...	3.2	14.0
47.30	Le Riches Strs	285	+ 5	6.9	27.5
	Lilleborne As Ten	95	...	...	...
19.40	Lon Fiduciary	2	...	...	...
1.75	London Town	70	...	...	...
11.70	Lonen Grp	205	− 2	...	...
13.50	Manx & O'seas	33	...	...	...
42.70	Megalomedia	99	− 3	...	...
	Megalomedia Wts	89	...	...	...
5.70	Meltek	90	...	...	40.2
251.60	Memory Corp	425	+ 2	...	...
6.04	Metrodome Fltms	21	...	...	...
11.80	Moorepay	156	− 2	3.2	25.7
19.90	MultiMedia	69	+ 1	...	...
22.50	NWF Grp	300	...	2.7	14.5
	Nash (Wm)	175	...	4.7	...
8.48	Neill Clerk	335	...	2.2	16.2
5.63	Nelson Cobbold	205	...	2.4	...
	Norcity II	65	...	...	...
	Norhomes	66	...	...	...
8.59	Nthn Petim	75	...	...	...
0.13	Nthn Petim Wrts	8	...	...	...
	Nthmb Res Prps	70	...	...	...
17.50	Nursing Home	113	...	0.6	...
9.90	Old English Pub	90	...	2.8	...
5.49	Omnicare	89	...	2.1	14.8
17.60	Omnimedia	65	...	...	...
10.79	Pacific Media	1	...	...	...
	Pacific Med Pf	45	...	...	...
7.62	Pan Andean Res	16½	+ 1	...	...
4.66	Park Ests(Liv)	195	...	...	...
99.50	Pat Clty	410	+ 28	...	...
28.80	Polymasc Pharms	144	+ 19	...	...
3.62	Preston Nth E	400	...	...	...
1.07	Revelation Piccadilly	100	...	...	...
11.20	Ricaman Insce	17	...	...	...
3.15	Rushmere Wynne	3½	...	...	...
0.07	Rush Wyn Wrts	0¾	...	...	...
12.90	SCS Satellite	125	− 1	...	...
4.45	Scotswood Inds	20	...	6.2	60.8
	Scott Pride	38	− 3	...	...
13.00	Scruttons	270	...	6.0	11.0
	Silkbarn	3	+ ½	...	...
124.00	Southern News	526	+ 1	3.7	14.7
	Southern Vectis	53	...	...	...
54.20	Stanford Rook	310	+ 45	...	...
12.60	Surrey Fr Inns	125	− 5	1.8	14.7
46.30	TRACKER Netwk	875	...	...	...
4.85	Tele Cred Eur	48	− 2	...	...
	Tele Cred Wrts	36	+ 3	...	...
14.40	Toad	116	...	...	...
	Trinity Care	180	...	1.0	...
	Trinity Care Pf	165	...	...	...
198.50	Trocadero	47	+ 1	...	...
	Univent	40	...	...	...
8.15	Utd Auctions	458	...	1.1	...
	VDC	605	...	...	...
35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	22.0
4.05	Viewinn	135	+ 5	...	...
	Voss	240	...	...	...
	Wedderburn Secs	12	...	...	...
	Wedd Secs Wrnts	5	...	...	...
2.13	Westmount Engy	26	...	...	...
5.67	W'chester M Mid	53	− 26	...	...
	Wynnstay Props	145	...	...	...
26.70	Zergo	290	+120	...	...

Dealers await Medeva founder

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

As the Alternative Investment Market goes from strength to strength, dealers await the return of Ian Gowrie-Smith, the former head and founder of Medeva, with early indications that his latest venture is likely to head skywards.

Mr Gowrie-Smith is due to make a comeback on AIM tomorrow when his SkyePharma vehicle, which effectively reversed into Black & Edgington, the business support services group, is due to start trading.

Dealers report significant demand ahead of the issue, suggesting a healthy premium over an initial placing and open offer price of 4p, with talk by traders of a first-day premium of about 3p.

Meanwhile, it has been another good week for the new market for smaller and growing companies, with widespread gains for a host of companies tipped by an ever-increasing following of brokers, newspapers and magazines.

Zergo Holdings, the computer consultancy specialist, was one of the star performers, as demand for the shares in thin conditions helped them to finish the week at 290p, which gave a massive 120p gain.

Others tipped included Pet City, the pet superstore group; Trocadero, the leisure complex spun off by Burford Holdings; Stanford Rook Holdings, the pharmaceutical group; and Electrophoretics International, the medical diagnostic company.

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, a market-maker in all of the stocks listed on AIM, remains optimistic on prospects. He said: "There was no new year hangover and the 'feel-good' factor has arrived early. Generally, it's been encouraging all the way."

The number of companies traded on AIM remained at 121, compared with a mere ten listed when the new market started life on June 19.

Capitalisation has increased steadily and now tops £2.3 billion, while money raised on AIM stands at £94.8 million.

PHILIP PANGALOS

TOURIST RATES

CHANGE ON WEEK

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	16.80	15.30
Belgium Fr	49.11	44.81
Canada $	2.213	2.053
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.30	8.50
Finland Mkk	7.34	6.69
France Fr	8.09	7.44
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	389.00	364.00
Hong Kong $	12.64	11.64
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2600	4.6100
Italy Lira	2564.00	2409.00
Japan Yen	176.70	160.70
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.667	2.437
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	10.48	9.68
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.38
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.91	10.11
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	refer	88010.0
USA $	1.648	1.518

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5530 (+0.0042)
German mark
2.2326 (+0.0027)
Exchange index
83.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2737.2 (+47.1)
FT-SE 100
3704.5 (+15.2)
New York Dow Jones
5181.43 (+64.31)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20669.03 (+800.88)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 28

ATAXY
(b) Disturbance of the bodily functions, especially that of motion, so that one staggers and bumps into things, the normal condition of many of us on rising. The interest of the word is that it is a homophone of (sounds exactly like) "a taxi". "Are you sure Tim is all right? When he knocked over that Sheraton table with the crystal jug of Martini on it, I diagnosed ataxy immediately."

SAPID
(c) Flavoursome, lively, interesting, from the Latin for flavoursome. The opposite of vapid and insipid, but somehow suggestive of both words, and also of sap as in poor sap. So a useful word for the double-edged compliment. "So James is coming, is he? Are you sure he will fit in. I always find his conversation so, well, so very sapid."

AILUROPHILE
(a) Someone who is abnormally fond of cats, as if any degree of fondness for them could be other than normal. From the Greek. An ailurophile can easily be recognised by the cloud of fleas and fine hairs hovering around his/her person like an aura. Be kind to such people, for they have just spent a fortune on easy-opening tins of Whiskas fishwaste.

RUDERAL
(a) Thriving in rubbish or waste. A term from the botanical world which has obvious transferred application in the zoological world. "She has had a truly ruderal career, you know — first as a researcher for a backbencher, then PPS to the Minister of Heritage, and now as executive assistant to the party leader's spin doctors' think-tank."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxa4 Qxa4 2 Qb8+ Kd7 3 Qc7+ Ke8 4 Qe7 mate.

مكتبة من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Alasdair Murray on urban myths that can damage famous companies

Just who has framed big business?

You may have heard this one before, but a friend of a friend went into a well-known fast-food restaurant recently and ordered a burger. He took one bite and and spat it out after his teeth crunched on a set of tiny bones. So he decided to take the half-eaten burger to a friend, who worked at a vet's nearby, to be told that his supposed chickenburger was actually a ratburger.

Or was it that a big burger chain actually mixes its meat with worms, shipped in from a secret worm farm in France? Or that chemical tests on Mexican beers have proved that one of the principal ingredients is urine? All complete rubbish, of course, but how often have you heard these stories told by friends who swear that it is the truth?

The urban myth has become a staple of modern life. It is a kind of mystery verbal virus, possessing the ability to spread quickly and mutating as it crosses cities and countries. And for the victims of the rumours, often businesses, there is no obvious cure.

A successful myth may or may not contain a kernel of truth but its real power stems from its expression of a genuine fear, no matter how incredible the tale may have become in the telling. For companies, such myths are no laughing matter and can damage not just the company's public reputation but actually hit sales as consumers stay away from their products.

Eradicating the myth is not just difficult but sometimes nigh impossible. As McDonald's is currently discovering, even a straight libel case with a clear target can prove to be not just expensive, but provide the rumour with the oxygen of even more publicity. When it is almost impossible to track the originator of the rumour, as is always the case with urban myths, preventing its repetition becomes impossible.

Snapple has faced all of these problems in the past few years. The soft-drink company found its carefully constructed New Age image, appealing to the young and ageing hippies, in tatters, when a rumour started to circulate that the company was a supporter of Operation Rescue, a militant anti-abortion group based in America. At first Snapple laughed it off but the rumours continued to circulate and gained added weight after claims were made that the company helped fund the Ku Klux Klan. The evidence, so it was claimed, was the mysterious K, which appears on the Snapple bottle. Ironically, the K really appears on the Snapple bottle, as it does on many other products in America, to inform customers that the food is kosher.

Snapple's situation became serious when it learnt that students in California, one of the company's biggest markets, were threatening to organise a boycott of Snapple's products. Snapple hired a private detective to try to track down the source of the rumours, organised flyers to be distributed refuting the claims and took out adverts in local newspapers. The finger of suspicion for stirring the rumours pointed at rival drinks manufacturers in the region, but proving it was impossible.



Is there a hidden message? Bob Hoskins and Roger Rabbit in the film *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, which is rumoured to reveal more than it meant to

Another company that has suffered is Procter & Gamble, the giant soap powder company, which has been fighting off satanic rumours for more than 15 years. They apparently derive from the fact that P&G's century-old logo contained a moon and stars, which some Christian fundamentalists interpreted as a sign of the devil. A story began to circulate in America's southern states that the logo contained the number 666 and that a satanic ram's horn would soon start appearing on the products. It was also claimed that a senior P&G executive had appeared on the American chat show *Donahue* to confirm that the company gave money to the satanic church.

Ever since this P&G has been fighting persistent outbreaks of the rumour all over the world. The myth even reached a small village in Norfolk this autumn, after a priest published a letter detailing the claims in the parish newsletter.

The company has spent millions of dollars on lawsuits, suing a number of individuals caught spreading the rumour, including a number of distributors for arival soap company, Amway. But P&G has never been able to pin down the exact origins of the rumour in spite of the apparent link to Amway. The company was even finally forced to remove its trademark from its products and eliminate the offending symbols from its logo.

But there is another dimension to the Procter & Gamble rumours. The company has a record of secretive behaviour and dominates both the economic and political life of its home base, Cincinnati.

In 1990 after a *Wall Street Journal* reporter had published some P&G documents, Ed Artzt, the chief executive, persuaded the county prosecutor to issue a subpoena to track all local phone calls and mobilised the head of the local fraud squad, who also happened to work part time in P&G's own security department. Nothing satanic, of course, but this kind of behaviour provides food for the conspiracy theorists. Secrecy and idiosyncratic corporate behaviour can contribute to the creation of business myths.

Disney, dominated even now by the myths sorrounding its eccentric founder Walt Disney, has been generating myths for years, from tales of child abduction gangs working in Disney resorts, to Three Little Pigs molesting women visitors in Disneyland.

Most of the latest rumours are based around supposed sex scenes that can be seen in Disney's cartoons. There is Jessica Rabbit appearing naked in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* or graffiti in a toilet used by Bob Hoskins in the same film reading, "Call Allyson Wonderland" and giving Disney chief Michael Eisner's telephone number below. Or the word "Sex" being formed by a cloud of swirling dust in *The Lion King*. The rumours would be entirely laughable, stemming from editing mistakes or very vivid imaginations, were it not for the fact that they have encouraged an American anti-abortion group, American Life League, to run a campaign against "subliminal sexual messages", and boycott Disney films.

There is some evidence that disgruntled animators, who wished to get back at the puritanical Walt Disney, used to try to insert hidden jokes into the films. And one animator was sacked for suggesting an adult version of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

But even if a company's behaviour is exemplary, it will not necessarily escape the rumour mill. Simply being big and successful is often enough. Americans — and most business myths originate in America — have a long tradition of paranoia about any organisation that seems to possess power, whether it is political or economic.

It has been expressed in films such as *The Parallax View* and *The China Syndrome*, which have presented the American corporation as a sinister power. So it comes as little surprise to find that the latest company to fall victim to business myths is Microsoft.

The software giant has even spawned a hate group on the Internet, finding that the very systems it develops are the perfect disinformation technology.

Earlier this year, a rumour spread that Microsoft's Windows '95 package included a programme that could detect all the software you were using on your computer and relay that information and even details of your personal files back to Microsoft.

In reality, the programme, Registration Wizard, can only detect a limited amount of software, cannot read files, and can only be used with the express permission of the consumer. But the rumour proved so powerful that the Australian Navy, among others, insisted on running security tests before installing Microsoft software.

More recently, rumours that Microsoft's Internet software deliberately disables its competitors' software have led to the US Department of Justice taking an interest. Incompatible software is a common computing problem and the scope of the problem with Microsoft seems limited, suggesting it was a genuine mistake.

But while Microsoft has been able to play down these individual rumours, damage has undoubtedly been done to the company's reputation. Microsoft is beginning to find out, just as Disney and Procter & Gamble before, that once the rumour mill finds a theme that strikes a chord with the public, people will believe just about anything.

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An introduction to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle. And starting today, *The Times* invites readers to spend a free day at one of the health clubs listed right. All the clubs participating in this offer provide a range of fitness regimes to suit every taste and to encourage you to be healthier.



As our guest you will be given a free fitness assessment, free use of most facilities at the participating club, such as its swimming pool, sauna, steam room, aerobics classes or gym.

All you have to do is collect four of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and present the voucher below.

And, readers who take up our offer of a free workout at a participating club will be entered into a draw to receive a free one-year membership to the club. A total of £80,000 worth of free memberships are available.

This offer is open until the end of February, 1996.

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This form, when four different Times tokens are attached, entitles the bearer to free admittance to one of the health clubs featured in *The Times* promotion on January 8. This form also entitles the bearer to be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a year's free membership at the health club visited. Offer valid until February 29, 1996.

THE TIMES
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GLASGOW, LivingWell at Hilton, William Street, G3, 0141 204 5512; LivingWell HC, St Vincent Street, G2, 0141 248 9788

NORTHERN IRELAND

BELFAST, City Gym,Wellington Place, 01232 327231

NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell at Hilton, Garforth, Leeds 0113 2876444 **GRIMSBY**, Millfields Health Club, Bargate, 01472 356068 **HULL**, The Metropolitan Club, Kingston Park, 01482 321191 **LEEDS**, LivingWell at Hilton, Neville Street, 0113 2445443 **NEWCASTLE**, Waves HC, Quayside, 0191 222 0333; LivingWell HC,Carliol Square, 0191 230 2717

NORTH WEST

MANCHESTER, LivingWell HC, Quay Street, M3, 0161 839 0606; Copthorne Hotel, Salford Quarys, 0161 873 7321

MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell HC, Priory Queensway, B4, 0121 238 7789; Hattons HC, Paradise Circus, 0121 200 2727; David Lloyd, Shady Lane, 0121 325 0700 **BURTON ON TRENT**, Moseley Fitness Centre, Moseley Street, 01283 533600 **COVENTRY**, LivingWell at Hilton, Walsgrave Triangle, 01203 841019 **DUDLEY**, Crystals HC, Brierley Hill, 01384 482882 **LOCKINGTON**, LivingWell at Hilton, Derby Rd, 01509 674 166 **MILTON KEYNES**, LivingWell HC, Avebury Boulevard, 01908 668286; LivingWell at Hilton, Timbold Drive, 01908 240422 **WARWICK**, LivingWell at Hilton, Junction 15, M40, 01926 493700

WALES

CARDIFF, David Lloyd, Ipswich Road, 01222 460046; Waves HC, Copthorne Way, 01222 599100; The Metropolitan Club, Ocean Way, 01222 456000

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Road, London NW5, 0171 482 3941 **BARBICAN**, Holmes Place, London EC1, 0171 374 0091 **BATTERSEA**, The Metropolitan Club, Sheepcote Lane, SW11, 0171 228 4400 **CHELSEA**, Holmes Place, London SW10, 0171 352 9452 **WEST END**, The Metropolitan Club, Kingly Street, W1, 0171 734 5002 **OXFORD STREET**, Holmes Place, London W1, 0171 436 0500 **FULHAM**, The Metropolitan Club, North End Road, SW6, 0171 610 1410 **EALING**, Holmes Place, London W5, 0171 579 9433 **MUSWELL HILL**, Laboratory Spa and HC, The Avenue, London N10, 0181 482 3000 **HOUNSLOW**, David Lloyd HC, Southall Lane, 0181 573 9378 **ENFIELD**, David Lloyd HC, Caterhatch Lane, 0181 364 5858 **CROYDON**, The Surrey Club, Hannibal Way, 0181 681 1331; LivingWell at Hilton, Purley Way 0181 667 4444 **KINGSTON**, Holmes Place, Wood St, Surrey, 0181 549 7700 **WANDSWORTH**, The Metropolitan Club, Burr Road, SW18, 0181 874 1155 **ESTERN AVENUE**, Dragons, Rowdell Rd, 0181 841 5611 **EWELL**, Dragons, Ruxley Lane, Surrey, 0181 393 6011 **RICHMOND**, Pinnacle, Kew Foot Rd, 0181 332 7185 **NORBURY**, Pinnacle, London Road, 0181 679 2226 **SUTTON & CHEAM**, Pinnacle, Gander Green Lane, 0181 661 9862 **WEMBLEY**, LivingWell at Hilton, Empire Way, 0181 795 4118 **TWICKENHAM**, The Metropolitan Club Craneford Way, 0181 892 2251

SOUTH EAST

GATWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Gatwick Airport, 01293 527261 **WATFORD**, LivingWell at Hilton, Eltham Way, 01923 210247 **READING**, David Lloyd, Thames Valley Park Drive 01734 662904 **EASTBOURNE**, David Lloyd, Broadwater Way, 01323 509963 **WEST BYFLEET**, Pinnacle, Pyrford Road, 01932 351835 **ST ALBANS**, Pinnacle, Cell Barnes Lane, 01727 869081 **WINDSOR**, Pinnacle, Helston Lane, 01753 832935 **HOVE**, Dragons, St Hellers Ave, 01273 724211 **GUILDFORD**, Dragons, Epsom Road, 01483 458811 **WOKING**, Chris Lane Tennis & Country Club, Westfield Ave, 01483 722113 **CRAWLEY**, Copthorne The Club, Copthorne Road, 01342 715022 Crawley, PJ's,Copthorne, 01342 714994 **SLOUGH**, Waves, Cippenham Lane, 01753 516222

SOUTH WEST

CHILWORTH, LivingWell at Hilton, Bracken Place, **SOUTHAMPTON**, 01703 766926 **SWINDON**, LivingWell at Hilton, Great Western Way, 01793 410937 **BOURNEMOUTH**, David Lloyd,Knole Rd, 01202 394333 **RINGWOOD**, David Lloyd, Christchurch Road, 01425 470101 **PLYMOUTH**, Plymsoles, Armada Way, 01752 224161 **PORTSMOUTH**, The Metropolitan Club, Alexandra Park, 01705 664748



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THE SCIENCE OF AGELESS AGEING: SEE PAGES 12 AND 13

Curtain to rise on sponsorship as AT&T starts calling Britain

BY ERIC REGULY

AT&T, America's largest telephone company, is set to make a series of announcements this month aimed at raising its profile in Britain and establish itself as a viable competitor to BT.

On Wednesday, the company, whose restructuring of itself into three businesses will result in 40,000 redundancies, will announce increased theatre sponsorship. It already sponsors the Almeida Theatre, in north London, and aims to add two national theatre companies to its list.

In a second announcement, in late January, the company will announce business initiatives likely to include the launch of a package of AT&T-branded telecoms products for big corporate customers. In addition, it is likely to disclose an alliance with City of London Telecommunications, known as Colt.

Colt, owned by Fidelity Investments of Boston, the mutual fund company, was launched two years ago to provide full telecoms services to businesses in the City using its own network of high-capacity glass-fibre cables. AT&T will probably disclose that it has negotiated an interconnection agreement with Colt and that Colt will sell the AT&T products as agent. Neither company would comment.

The products might range from an international data communications service to a virtual private network, allowing companies to connect their London and overseas offices with a private exchange. Other services, including tariff-free 0800 business, an Internet access service and an AT&T phone card are possible.

AT&T was granted a full operator's licence by the Government in late 1994, but has done little with it other than promote its name by such means as stage sponsorships. Of the 7,500 AT&T employees in Britain, fewer than 200 work on the telecoms side; most make hardware such as switches and cash machines.

Building up the brand name, however, has been a smart move. Indeed, AT&T is among the best-known American brand names, with Coca-Cola and McDonald's.

AT&T, founded as Bell Telephone in 1877, is so ingrained in the American psyche that many Americans still think that it provides their local phone service. AT&T, in fact, has been confined to the long-distance market since the US Government broke it up, creating seven "baby bells", in the early 1990s. New legislation in the US will let it re-enter the local market within a couple of years.

The AT&T name has travelled well. James Ross, a telecoms analyst with Hoare Govett, said: "AT&T's brand name is very strong. The corporate market does know about it."

Now the company has to build businesses around it. Attacking the business market will be its first move. However, BT, in spite of AT&T's power, is not worried. It does not think that AT&T has many advantages over other operators in serving big business.

BT's attitude may change if AT&T finds a way to enter the domestic market. AT&T wants to offer services to residential customers, but when and how it will do so are not clear.

Since AT&T lacks a domestic network, and would not want to spend billions of pounds on building one, it would have to form a partnership with a cable company or a radio-based phone service, or go on the acquisition trail. Nothing came of AT&T's talks with Cable and Wireless's about buying C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications. BT's main rival, but management changes in C&W may give AT&T another chance.

Cash boost from float for Bank of Scotland

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE Bank of Scotland is set to recoup up to A$438 million (£215 million) of the money it spent on its latest acquisition, BankWest, the Australian bank, through a public offer for 49 per cent of the shares that kicks off today.

The 213.5 million shares in BankWest are being sold at A$2.05 each. It will be floated on the Australian Stock Exchange next month.

The selldown of the bank, which Bank of Scotland acquired last month for A$900 million, was one of the key conditions attached to the sale by the Western Australian state government, which pledged to allow the state's residents the chance to share in its privatisation process.

Seventy per cent of the shares have been earmarked for state residents. Bank of Scotland, which will retain a 51 per cent stake in BankWest, has agreed to mop up any unsold shares, although Australian analysts predict that demand will be so strong that the offer will have to close early.

Andrew McGuckin, banking analyst at Porter Western, a stockbroker in Perth, said yesterday: "The outlook for Western Australia is very good over the next few years — it is the fastest growing state in the country — and BankWest is well placed to benefit from that.

"Not only is there room for it to lend to the commercial sector, where there are a lot of resource projects coming on stream, but the housing market too is about to turn here. BankWest is well positioned for growth and has also been attractively priced."

BankWest, Western Australia's largest financial institution, is forecasting a 6 per cent rise in net profits to A$100.2 million for the year to February 1997, with pre-tax profits up 16.9 per cent to A$159.9 million. It is pledging to pay a dividend of 16.5 cents per share for 1997, representing a yield of 8 per cent.

BankWest has almost 600,000 customers and accounts for 24 per cent of all bank lending in the state. Just over half of its lending is to the residential market, with commercial lending accounting for another 40 per cent and consumer markets for the rest.

Fraser Campbell, the general manager of the Bank of Scotland, said: "It will be business as usual at BankWest, with Bank of Scotland adding value in its areas of expertise where appropriate." The share offer is scheduled to close on February 9.

Ruling due on pensions

A JUDGE is today due to make a landmark ruling on whether alleged victims of personal pensions mis-selling can pursue individual companies in the courts, or whether they are bound by the compensation review system set up by the Personal Investment Authority in the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal.

Judge Raymond Jack, QC, will give judgment in the Bristol Mercantile Court on a stay of proceedings action brought by a group of life companies, including the Prudential, TSB and Irish Life.



Malcolm Edwards, right, the former commercial director of British Coal, founded Coal Investments two years ago

Coal group shapes rescue deal

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COAL INVESTMENTS, the troubled mining company that had its shares suspended last month after failing to deliver interim results amid mounting financial difficulties, will announce a rescue rights package within the next two weeks.

The company, which was formed from the remaining British mines after British Coal sold the more lucrative collieries, is arranging last-minute details of the issue, which is believed to be worth about £20 million, while also hunting for a new chief executive.

At present, the group is headed by Malcolm Edwards, the former commercial director of British Coal who founded Coal Investments two years ago, and who is both chairman and chief executive. The company, which has had a team of headhunters working for the past two months, said there was more work than one person could manage. However, rumours have abounded in the City of dissatisfaction with Mr Edwards, and it has been speculated that the securing of a successful refinancing is dependent on his removal to a less pivotal position. Coal Investments has been locked in negotiations with Guinness Mahon, its merchant bank, and James Capel, the broker, since last month when the suspension of its shares coincided with the refusal of planning permission for a coalface in Staffordshire for which the company had high production hopes.

It is at present debating whether to appeal against the decision or concentrate production efforts elsewhere. A spokesman said: "It is a question of what will be quicker — whether we spend the time and money arguing against the decision, which could take several months, or look elsewhere."

Meanwhile the production force has been mobilised to step up output for the company, which had been expected to turn in losses of £11 million at its scheduled interim stage last year, with coalface workers returning to work a day early from the Christmas holiday.

Since its formation, Coal Investments has raised £50 million from investors, most of which has been spent on developing its six collieries.

Jaguar exports top £1bn as world sales surge 30%

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

WORLDWIDE sales of Jaguar cars jumped 30 per cent last year, with exports totalling more than £1 billion for the first time.

The success of the company's new XJ range of saloons has boosted registrations in all its major markets. Sales in Europe more than doubled, while sales in the United States, the company's biggest and most important market, increased 19 per cent.

Sales in Japan, of 2,311 cars, were also up 60 per cent in the face of competition from German and American rivals as well as Japan's domestic range of executive and luxury models. In Britain, registrations rose from 6,659 in 1994 to 8,727 last year, giving Jaguar its highest share of the market for luxury models since 1988.

The figures are a major boost for a company that struggled through the years of recession after its £1.6 billion takeover by Ford. Analysts feared that Jaguar would lose its identity and its markets as a Ford subsidiary, but huge investment from the American parent has made the business resurgent.

Everything hinged on the new XJ range, launched last year. The car had to have a winning design, and the workforce at the Browns Lane headquarters factory had to make it efficiently and well enough to pass every quality standard in demanding markets such as the US and Japan.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar chairman and chief executive, made the company the first of the European luxury manufacturers to offer three-year warranties, such was his confidence.

The reception for the car has exceeded Jaguar's hopes and Mr Scheele said: "We have seen a dramatic improvement in our sales around the world. Product excellence, combined with a successful export marketing strategy, resulted in our export earnings exceeding £1 billion for the first time."

Worldwide sales were 39,727 last year compared with the 1994 performance of 30,020. Sales in North America have revived substantially, with 1994's 15,906 improved to 19,030. Germany has traditionally been a poor market for Jaguar, but the Coventry company improved registrations from 1,430 to 2,525.

CBI gives property warning

Business is expecting a fall in demand for commercial property over the next six months, according to survey evidence today from the Confederation of British Industry and Grimley, the property adviser.

Twenty-three per cent of more than 800 companies surveyed expect to increase property holdings, while 28 per cent expect to reduce them. The balance of -5 per cent marks a fall from the positive 2 per cent in the CBI's last survey.

Job changes

The Government should promise further employment law reform by pledging to scrap legal provisions on unfair dismissal and redundancy compensation, according to proposals today by Warwick Lightfoot, a Royal Bank of Scotland economist and former Treasury adviser, in *Unfinished Business* for Politeia, a free-market think tank.

Food prices

A rumbling battle of attrition among food retailers rather than another full-scale price war is expected after statistics today from Verdict, the research group. Profit margins are forecast to fall steadily with price competition and increasing costs making for a medium-term squeeze.

Directors' list

A register of non-executive directors for smaller companies, in a drive to stimulate interest for such posts among small and medium-sized companies, will be launched tomorrow by Kingston Smith, the firm of accountants.

Sales push Prozac into the top five

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROZAC, the anti-depressant, became one of the world's five bestselling drugs last year with sales of more than $2 billion. Sales of the drug, which is manufactured by Eli Lilly, the US pharmaceutical company, are set to increase to more than $3 billion by the end of the decade in spite of the controversy surrounding its medical use.

But Zantac, the ulcer drug manufactured by Glaxo Wellcome, which is based in the UK, will lose its position as the bestselling global medicine, according to a report on the pharmaceutical industry by Lehman Brothers, the merchant bank. The report estimates that sales will decline dramatically from $2.7 billion in 1994 to $700 million by the year 2000. Losec, a rival ulcer drug produced by Astra, the Swedish drug company, is set to replace Zantac as the biggest selling drug with sales touching $4 billion in 2000.

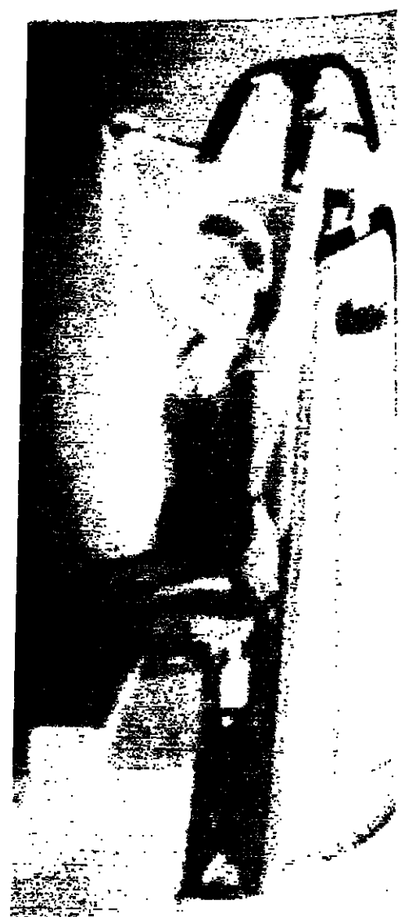
Lehman Brothers predicts the biggest growing drug over the next few years will be Epogen, a red-blood cell stimulator, developed by US biotechnology company Amgen and sold under licence by several leading pharmaceutical companies. Epogen is used to treat anaemia during major surgery or kidney dialysis and sales should grow to $3.5 billion by the year 2000.

Another top five drug in 1995, Pravachol, the anti-cholesterol drug produced by Bristol-Myers Squibb, the US company, is also set to disappear, to be replaced by Zocor, produced by Merck, another US drugs company.

Amgen is generally regarded as the most successful biotechnology company in the world and Lehman Brothers sees its collaboration with pharmaceutical companies as the way forward for the industry. The report argues that joint ventures will optimise returns on research and development costs and increase the research base, encouraging more medical breakthroughs.

IN OUR PRIZE DRAW

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Jon Ashworth reports on a luxury retreat designed for business executives

Brainstorming leads to five-star idea

BRITAIN'S first five-star retreat for business executives has opened in the Lake District, in a move that promises to bring American-style luxury to the UK corporate scene. Groups of up to 20 can thrash out ideas in private at the gilded venue, which costs from £250 per person per night and has a helipad in the grounds.

The Samling at Dovenest, overlooking Windermere, is the work of Roger McKechnie, who created the Phileas Fogg range of snacks and sold out to United Biscuits two years ago. Mr McKechnie has invested more than £2 million and has high hopes for the future. Marketing begins in earnest in the new year.

Mr McKechnie and his senior aides used to hold animated brainstorming sessions three or four times a year, taking over entire pubs and hotels. He said: "We came away from them feeling remarkably focused and recharged. As we got bigger, we wanted the equivalent of a five-star hotel, with conference facilities and a nice location. There is nowhere in Britain you can do this."

He has spent the past year-and-a-half turning the lakeside retreat into just such a venue. The Samling has ten rooms and aims to provide a secure haven for executives plotting takeover bids, or simply deciding future strategy. Rooms are fitted with direct-dial fax and telephone, and a top-class chef will provide everything from beans on toast to a three-course meal at 1am. Free access to the bar is included in the price. Rates are £250-a-day single, and £350 double.



The Samling is meant to be like a top hotel with conference facilities

Bookings have been taken from aerospace, motor and telecommunications groups, but most of the interest so far has been local. Brainstorming aside, Mr McKechnie aims to make The Samling available for corporate entertaining and house parties. The venue has an 80-seat theatre and studio, and the hope is to attract visiting opera singers for fringe-style reviews. He said: "It's starting to get known on a national scale."

The house is no stranger to the creative touch. It was first owned by the landlord of one William Wordsworth, who was inspired by the "babbling" stream which runs through the garden. And Felicia Hemans, the Victorian romantic poet, penned the famous lines "The boy stood on the burning deck" on the same rustic turf.

Business executives who succumb to its charms may even follow in the footsteps of Mr McKechnie, who made more than £7 million from the United Biscuits sale. The idea for Phileas Fogg was dreamed up in the back of a pub in London's Old Brompton Road.

هكذا من الأصل

مكتبة من الأصل

Engineers design a new construction industry

Leaders of the construction industry have been summoned to the Westminster home of the Royal Academy of Engineering this afternoon to be told that they must "change or die". Scions of famous dynasties and managers imbued with the arcane ways of the trade are used to harsh truths. Their industry has been pummelled by the collapse of the commercial property boom, knocked over by drastic cuts and delays in public spending, starved by the long slump in housing, denuded of half a million jobs, and has been found wanting by the official Latham report.

Building bosses will therefore receive the report with the weary anticipation of a punchbag watching the next would-be Frank Bruno strip off. The academy has limited mundane functions but a thousand highly placed fellows keen to exert influence in Whitehall and among their peers.

Their key message is that construction today mirrors the travails of manufacturers in the 1980s. It has a glorious past and can still manage the most breathtaking projects. But it has lost confidence, does not invest enough in training or research, is plagued with over-capacity and has learnt to survive on wafer-thin profit margins. Beyond a handful of world-class performers, it has become uncompetitive and faces rising foreign threats at home and abroad. Sir William Barlow, academy president, sees rationalisation as inevitable. "The industry must change fast if is to avoid the most damaging experiences of manufacturing."

Much of the remedy is familiar, either from Latham recommendations now being run through task forces, or from the jargon of management consultants. Clients, not least in the public sector, should be educated to prepare tenders and draw up contracts that put partnership and overall cost above initial price. Only this could end the spectacle of contractors reaching for their lawyers to make claims for late changes or squeezing sub-contractors to try to make money. Management concepts such as benchmarking, total quality management, empowerment and client focus now make up for lack of common sense in much of the reformed manufacturing sector.

Bosses who truly believe can inject some of these ideas into their firms. In housing, where they have more control from planning to retail sale, they must make adjustments to stable prices, just like homebuyers. Builders must learn to do without land price inflation, improve the building process and offer a better combination of quality and price



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

than the second-hand market. In big-ticket construction, the goals will be harder to achieve without buoyant demand. Marks & Spencer type relationships, between client and builder or builder and suppliers, are not likely to make much progress when tenders deliver such apparent bargains. Capacity is also hard to slim in an industry that sometimes seems the only one left in Britain prepared to take risks.

The few healthy companies would be happy to see weaker names squeezed out of the market during these bad times. Yet seemingly dodgy firms manage to stump up backing for performance bonds. The latest attempts at restructuring suggest it will not be easy. Had Kvaerner managed to buy Amec, it might well have sold the general contruction business. But the City did not like a modest, fixed offer. City doubts are also voiced over Wimpey's plan to swap its materials and construction divisions for Tarmac's ailing housing business.

At the other end, it is easy for smaller firms trade up. To compete, cannier big firms have learnt to manage portfolios of contracts running into billions with little or no net capital employed. Returns are wonderful in the good times. For people in love with their business, it is even worth keeping going when margins are minimal. So they have shed overheads fast, mainly by cutting full-time employment of craftsmen and site managers.

The switch to private finance for public sector projects could be a key to reform. Companies of substance will be needed to finance and own the projects, even if they can manage on 15 per cent equity to 85 per cent debt. When contractors become, in effect, their own clients, there is no incentive to bid low on optimistic assumptions and fatten out the contract later. If contractors have no one else to turn to, they must change culture and take their ultimate public sector clients with them.

For this to happen, however, others must adapt their cultture too. Only contractors seem prepared to take the risk of the trebled up-front costs of bidding under the private finance initiative. The Government might help to defray these new costs. But logic points to new financial vehicles: companies that embrace contracting, operating utilities and owning completed projects — much as some contractors used to build office blocks to own themselves.

France has such companies. They could develop here from the new road-building consortia. But City investors who insist on trading gilt-edged interest separately from the capital seem as unlikely to welcome such novelties as to share the new risks. Utility regulators, whose charges are well cast to participate in these reforms, see partnership and group co-operation as a cosy menace to customers and insist that dealings be at arms length.

Engineers, building bosses and well-meaning civil servants will not get far by talking to each other unless bankers, City institutions and public watchdogs are involved and prepared to play their part. Britain does not want the corruption that so often lies behind the tender process in some continental countries. But a little more co-operation and a little less devotion to form would go a long way to improve efficiency.

Money laundering is rampant, says **Grania Langdon-Down**

Fraudsters evade the police net

Money launderers could be slipping through the net because there are insufficient resources to investigate the suspicions of the staff of banks, building societies and other financial institutions according to Professor Michael Levi, director of the White Collar and Organised Crime Unit at the University of Wales in Cardiff.

Professor Levi says only a small proportion of the thousands of reports of suspicious transactions made each year receive more than routine police checks. The white collar crime expert said there was also concern over the level of feedback from police forces on the quality of the disclosures. This meant financial institutions were unable to evaluate how good a job they were doing in spotting criminal activity.

It is nearly a decade since financial institutions were first required to report suspicious transactions under the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences Act.

The scope of the regulations was greatly extended in April 1994 to apply to proceeds of all crimes. Anyone working in financial services or handling clients' money, such as solicitors, also became liable to prosecution if they did not have proper monitoring systems, failed to report suspicious financial transactions or revealed an account was being investigated. For non-criminal customers it can cause difficulty opening a bank account if the name you use is a little different from the one on official documents.

Last year, about 15,000 suspicious transactions were reported to the National Criminal Intelligence Service's (NCIS) economic crimes unit. About one in five was found to have some criminal connection.

The level of reporting has dropped slightly this year, with 6,330 in the six months from April, including 3,450 from banks, 1,263 from building societies, 255 from bureaux de change and 85 from solicitors.

The British Bankers Association, which has 300 members from 60 different countries, echoed the concerns highlighted by Professor Levi. Sue Thornhill, assistant director, said: "Once the information is in the system, there have to be the resources to investigate, prosecute and confiscate the proceeds to deter the criminals.

"The financial sector does get very frustrated at not seeing the effects of their disclosures. Until we know what proportion is giving rise to investigations and are proved to be based on valid suspicions, we just don't know whether we are winning the battle or not."

Perry Nove, Assistant Commisioner of the City of London Police, chaired an Association of Chief Police Officers' working party on financial disclosures.

He said: "The service has always been conscious of the clamour for feedback but there are some problems.

"Some disclosures lead to arrests which are then *sub judice* until the case is concluded. In other cases, the information may harden up suspicions and lead to a long operation. Silence at our end does not mean disinterest. Also a very large percentage do not point to criminality once inquiries are made. However, we are working on improving the flow of information so NCIS can advise financial institutions on typical movements of criminal assets and any ingenious new ways of being used to try to fox the system." Earlier this year, Albert Pacey, NCIS's director general, gave warning that some cases were beyond the resources and expertise of the police and other agencies and should be tackled by a dedicated anti-money laundering task force.



Albert Pacey, the National Criminal Intelligence Service's director general, has said that police cannot cope with some white collar crime



> Only a small proportion of suspicious transactions receive more than routine police checks
> — *Michael Levi*

It is estimated that annually, £500 billion of drugs money is laundered internationally, with the UK figure put at £2.5 billion. But Professor Levi argued the amounts were "prone to exaggeration" because they were based on criminals' incomes and not the amount they saved. He said many spent their ill-gotten gains on cars or the bookies.

It was only at the highest levels of a criminal organisation that sophisticated methods were used to launder profits through 'front' companies or underground banking arrangements.

Yet, the overwhelming number of disclosures centred on personal accounts while the reporting of potentially suspicious inter-company transactions was a "black hole" in the system.

Financial disclosures have helped detect some major cases, including the stealing of banknotes due to be destroyed by the Bank of England and millions of pounds embezzled by a senior accountant with the Metropolitan Police. But the professor said very few reports that resulted in a 'hit' — a report on a person or company already suspected by police or customs — involved more than £100,000.

The internal auditor of a large north American bank said staff at its London office reported about two dozen suspicious transactions a year to its money laundering reporting officer. About half were sent on to NCIS.

He said the lack of feedback from the police was very frustrating. "We know what things are suspicious. What we don't know is whether the police have been successful in following it up and getting enough evidence to bring the people to book."

It was very satisfying when their suspicions were proved right. Some months ago, a man tried to deposit £8,000 in Scottish bank notes, claiming he had sold a car in Scotland. "We weren't convinced and made a report. Later we were told the man was involved in blackmail, fraud and money laundering," he said.

In search of an identity

The McDavids' Reunion Song. *Radio 4, 9.00pm.*

An estimated 22,000 illegitimate children were born as a result of Canadian servicemen's relationships with British women during the Second World War. Mary Ward's feature follows the very different fortunes of two of them — Carol Wilson and Ian Wallis — as they tried to find out if their fathers were still living, and if so, where. There was one huge barrier in their way. Canada has a no-disclosure law under which, for 20 years, the servicemen's whereabouts cannot be divulged. Helped by Carol, Ian managed to find a way through the net. Carol herself has spent 15 years trying to do the same, so far without success. "I just want to know who I am," she says.

A Man For All Music. *Radio 4 (FM), 11.00pm.*

All radio interviewers should take a leaf out of June Knox-Mawer's book. The relevant chapter heading would read something like: "Do your homework. Get to know more about your interviewees than they know about themselves." The Knox-Mawer technique is impressively at work again in the first of her four interviews with André Previn, conductor, composer, arranger and soloist. The span of his music-making in episode one is startlingly wide. It begins with Previn, age 5, playing four-handed piano versions of Beethoven and Brahms symphonies with his father, and ends with Previn, age 26, two-handedly conducting the MGM Orchestra in a Gene Kelly film for which he wrote some of the numbers. *Peter Davalle*

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, including 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat, and at 1.15 The Net 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Pulp 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce, incl at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Dance Band Days, and at 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Vaudeville Red-Hot and Blue (1/4) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews 11.30 News; Going Bananas 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck, 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 2.35 Actuality, 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Great Scots! Ian Archer talks to Jim Baxter 8.00 The Monday Match 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Best of Bales 7.00 Moz Dee/Jonny Gould 10.00 Best of King 12.00 Nancy Roberts 3.00 Best of Boyd 5.00 Best of Reeburn 6.00 Mike Read's Pop Quiz 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 Gary Jacobs 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The Greenfield Collection 9.00 News in German 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Ports of Call 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.00 News in German 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack: HR List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Omnibus 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Ed Stewart 11.45 Development 95 Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am Folk Routes 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press 1.15 Man, Machine and Music 1.45 Health Matters 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Screenplay 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Ken Russell's Movie Classics (2/13) 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Hits Through the Night

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Rachmaninov (Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Vespers); Brahms (Symphony No 3 in F); Vivaldi (Flute Concerto in G minor); Haydn (Symphony No 11 in E flat); 8.05 Vaughan Williams (Overture, The Wasps); Strauss (Duet Concertino for clarinet and bassoon)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Arnold (English Dances); Heinichen (Concerto in F); Scarlatti (Sonatas in B flat, Kk544 and Kk545); 9.33 Copland (Rodeo: Saint Louis SO)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Monteverdi (Magnificat); Ravel (Introduction and Allegro); Hahn (Chansons grises); Mozart (Symphony No 24 in B flat); Vaughan Williams (The Tunning of Elinor Rumming, Five Tudor Portraits)

12.00 Composer of the Week. Mozart (Symphony in D; Sonata in D; Vesperae de Domenica, excerpts; extracts from Lucio Silla, La Finta semplice and Bastien and Bastienne)

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Simon Keenlyside, baritone, Malcolm Martineau, piano, perform songs by Schubert and Wolf

2.00 Tempest! Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Ivor Bolton. Sibelius (Suite No 2, The Tempest); Haligrimson (Cello Concerto); Purcell (The Tempest)

3.45 Oxbridge Organs. Thomas Trotter plays the organ at New College, Oxford.

Including Bach (Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C); Grier (Disc Grâties)

4.30 Words, Music and All That Jazz. Mel Hill considers the art of improvisation

5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson with 500 years of music, news, interviews and gossip, from 1100 to 1600

5.15 In Tune. Monteverdi (Lamento d'Arianna); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in D); 6.40 Tippett (Ritual Dances, A Midsummer Marriage)

7.30 Britten Plus. Barbara Bonney, soprano, Julius Drake, piano. Haydn (Three songs, to texts by Anna Hunter); Britten (Fish in the unruffled lakes; On this island); Mendelssohn (Neue Liebe; Der Blumenstrauss; Wenn sich zwei Herzen scheiden; Es weiss und rat es doch keiner; Suleika); Wolf (Italian Songbook, excerpts)

9.20 Celtic Soul. Sean Street travels to Iona to find out where history ends and fantasy begins

9.20 A Series of Intervals. The minor third (3/12)

9.30 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish SO under Martyn Brabbins, with Stephanie Gonley, violin, Tim Hugh, cello. Brahms (Tragic Overture; Concerto for violin and cello in A minor); Hindemith (Concert Music for strings and brass)

10.45 Mixing It

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. Herzogenberg (Waltzes: Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow, piano duet); Brahms (Quartet in A)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 8.40 The Doomsday Letters: The Future. Last in the series with Sir Crispin Tickell 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Times columnist Brenda Maddox. With George Steiner, Howard Gardner, Josef Rotblat and Maggie O'Kane

10.00-10.30 News; With Great Pleasure (FM only). Jon Snow reveals his literary passions

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from Crediton Parish Church in Devon

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour. Serial: Lions and Liquorice, by Kate Fenton. Read by Michael Maloney (5/12)

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Personal finance

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Who Goes There? Martin Young, Francis Wheen, Joan Bakewell and Fred Housego explore the lives of the rich and famous 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Sheena MacDonald

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Reaching for the Sky, by Dave Dixon. During the Suez Crisis, two 14-year-old boys build model aeroplanes and dream of flying with the RAF. With David Holt and Richard Pearce (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker witnesses a new circus at the Albert Hall; and talks to the conductor Mark Wigglesworth

4.45 Short Story: Broiken Nights, by Margaret McAllister. Read by Daphne Oxenford

5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Ben Bradshaw 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.40 The Monday Play: From Salford to Jericho, by Kate Rowland. Mags arrives in Manchester to find her brother Billy. There she meets lots of homeless people who tell their stories. With Siobhan Redmond and Alastair Galbraith

9.00 The McDavids' Reunion Song. See Choice

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report, by J.L. Carr. Read by Alistair McGowan (6/1)

11.00-11.30 A Man For All Music (FM only). See Choice

11.00-11.30 Education Matters (LW only)

11.30 The Water Gypsies, by A.P. Herbert, dramatised by Nick McCarty. With Karen White and Jim Nutter (2/6) (r)

12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Maybe the Moon, by Armistead Maupin. Shelley Thompson reads the first of ten parts

12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089.Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mayes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cannon still on the ball

YOU can knock, but you can't keep, a good lawyer down, as the determination of Eamon Cannon, property expert at the law firm Fladgate Fielder, proves. Cannon, an Irish international rugby player in the 1960s, was in Coventry on business when he was knocked down by a car. But Cannon was determined his injuries would not prevent completion of the large property deal that had taken him there. He was last seen in his hospital gown, with legal documents tucked under his good arm, heading for a touchdown in a room the hospital had set aside for the completion formalities.

Held to account

IF, on Wednesday, you see swarms of police and fraud squad officers descending on the Chartered Accountants' Hall, please don't think the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) has been raided. They'll all be attending a one-day conference on the problems of fraud, at Moorgate Place, organised by ICAEW's audit faculty.

Scotch missed

ALLAN Shiach, head of the Macallan whisky distillery, is always assured of wide publicity for his company, for in Hollywood, he is Allan Scott, the screenwriter, who has has written more than 40 scripts. In the latest edition of *Harpers & Queen*, Shiach/Scott admits that in every script he weaves in a reference to Macallan. "I suddenly realised my last script for Disney didn't have it, so I had to go back and find a scene for it. And one they wouldn't bloody cut", he says.

Transfer list

IN the wake of Saturday's mega National Lottery jackpot, solicitor Mel Goldberg who is well used to arranging transfers of football players for several million pounds, is joining a very apt partnership — Epstein Grower & Michael Freeman. The senior partner, Howard Epstein, settled the £18 million Mohidin husband and wife lottery dispute.

Hill climber

FURTHER proof that there is life after Hill Samuel comes from Warren Finegold who, after leaving TSB's merchant bank, went on to build up a name for himself in the electricity sector at Goldman Sachs. Next month he joins UBS to become a managing director in its fast-growing corporate finance division, reporting to Malcolm Le May.

COLIN CAMPBELL

It's not yet time to look back at the 1980s

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, apparently. Peter York, in double-breasted frock coat, declaimed those words with weighty irony, but he declaimed them nevertheless. The unpersuasive thesis of **Peter York's Eighties** (Saturday, BBC2) was that it was bliss in that dawn (etcetera) and that to be admitted to the Blitz Club was very heaven. Here was York's first problem. Since most viewers had never heard of the Blitz Club until Saturday, the theory is definitely contestable. York's second problem was that the 1980s were — well, last week. In 30 years' time, a Christopher Frayling may guide us thoughtfully through the significance of the 1980s, and we will be grateful. But at this stage being reminded of the 1980s is like being asked what you had for breakfast.

In the early 1980s, said York, two groups were at work in little rooms in London, each unaware of the other. First came the "plotters" — members of Conservative think-tanks, scribbling sums on pieces of paper ("Eureka! Monetarism!"). Then came the "poseurs" (or properly "posers"), which meant Spandau Ballet ironing their silk shirts before entertaining the bottle-blond "fabulous" brigade in Covent Garden. Each, in their own little way, set out to challenge the liberal establishment — a thesis which makes sense until you actually glance at it, when you fall over the back of the sofa, laughing.

York kept sashaying between plotters and posers, mainly because it gave him something to do. Self-importance turned out to be the key characteristic of both camps, and York (naturally) encouraged the self-important to analyse this self-importance, self-importantly. "Who the hell do you think you are?" was the question Paul Morley (erstwhile youth pundit) apparently used to ask of the strutting Blitzers — a question many people may have asked Morley, too, in his time.

To his credit, York didn't overdo the outfits. He started out looking like Adam Adamant, and stuck with it. Meanwhile, anyone wishing to object that while one of York's groups was forging the long-term fiscal policy of this country, the other applied a small amount of rouge, is missing York's basic joke. Which was, of course . . . no, damn. It's gone.

People were on the move this weekend, especially last night. In **As Time Goes By** (BBC1), Jean and Lionel spent their first frustrating weekend at their new country retreat; in **A Touch of Frost** (ITV), David Jason's house was burnt out by a chip-pan incident; in *The Tourist* (BBC2), a group of idealistic Westerners took a wild hairy camel-ride to Outer Mongolia (the ride was wild; the camels were hairy); and in *The Gulf War* (BBC1), a quarter of a million American soldiers joined Operation Desert Storm. Yes, it all pointed to that weird old adage: "a change is as good as a rest".

But sometimes a rest is as good as a change, too — and Bob Larbey's *As Time Goes By* is such gentle comedy that it is quite honestly best watched from underneath a nice duvet while consuming bread soaked in warm milk. Yes, yes, gently does it. *Total* bed rest. Safe hands. The lights are dimmed, and there is a big sign "SILENCE" posted on the door. Breathe softly in the gloom, and what's this? A little leggy fawn, with startled eyes, emerges from the surrounding wood and edges cautiously towards you, finally resting its head upon your lap.

Such instant invalidism, however, is no bad thing for a Sunday night — except that immediately after comes the News, for which one's sensibilities are hardly prepared. Last night, in the first of a new series, Jean and Lionel found themselves harmlessly "sucked into the country set". "We're in a gang!" exclaimed Lionel, jugubriously. Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer are so carelessly consummate that it doesn't matter that the original comic situation (former lovers meeting again after decades) petered out ages ago. *As Time Goes By* should be played endlessly to violent offenders, in place of stroking hamsters.

When did licence plates become "index numbers"? *A Touch of Frost* was insistent on this point of authenticity, perhaps as a red herring — to disguise other pungent whiffs. Last night's story involved a kidnap, and was well sustained for its two hours; the only problem was that Frost had no special expertise. Whenever his boss threatened "I'll bring in a trained negotiator!" the viewer was bound to think "Well, why not?" But Frost handled the case, though made no obvious mark upon it. His brilliant police work recalled those scenes in *Hawaii Five-O* when Steve McGarrett pronounced "Put out an APB!" (a routine instruction) and his adoring minions were dead impressed.

Why is Frost so popular with audiences? I can only guess they love the glimpses of other David Jason characters. Frost has no trademarks beyond a trilby hat, a row of pens and a penchant for fried eggs. But every so often his bland accent slips into Peckham, or he does the weary-tut-tut-Gromit-Del-Boy thing with his eyes, and one's interest in this boring man is briefly re-enflamed.

Last night's story concerned a believably nasty youth (Marc Warren) with a strong resemblance to a young Malcolm McDowell. The crime rang true — the victim decoyed to a barn; the boy's accomplice a simpleton girl with spots. But the investigation was bathetic. Finally, the youth picked up the ransom and escaped — by bus. This summed things up pretty well. For hours Frost had sat pondering, and at the kidnapper's phone-call he announced his cunning plan. "We'll play it his way!" he said. Oh good.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (69750)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (29139408)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (2275069)
10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5742755)
10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6412156)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (80175)
12.00 News (Ceefax) (6558137) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (9789243) **12.50 Regional News** (13491798)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (20868)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (76315392) **1.55 Knots Landing** (s) (1627069) **2.40 Wonders of the Wild** (s) (1914156)
3.05 Timekeepers with Bill Dod (s) (5913953)
3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (r) (s) (2729589) **3.55 Bitsa** (s) (2248576) **4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies** (r) (s) (8261971)
4.35 NEW **The Genie from Down Under.** Comedy drama with Alexandra Milman and Rhys Muldoon (Ceefax) (s) (9277953)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (4642175) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (7893866)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (510576) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (359)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (839) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30** Neighbours
7.00 NEW **Noel's Telly Years.** Nostalgia quiz (Ceefax) (s) (9427)



Alice Beer puts lipsticks to the test (7.30pm)

7.30 Watchdog: Beauty Special (Ceefax) (s) (595)
8.00 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (8175)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Starring Nicholas Lyndhurst as the time-travelling husband with a woman in each era (Ceefax) (s) (7682)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (8392)
9.30 Panorama. In the wake of the excesses of the *festive season*, a sobering investigation into Britain's drinking habits, asking why the Government has failed to change a habit which causes up to 40,000 deaths a year in Britain (Ceefax) (852359)
10.10 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews new films including *Seven* starring Brad Pitt; *Showgirls*, Joe Eszterhas's sexually explicit tale set in the sleazy world of backstage Las Vegas; Denzel Washington in *Devil in a Blue Dress*; *The War* with Kevin Costner; and Julia Roberts in *Something to Talk About*. Plus the latest news from the film world from reporter Kirsty Young (Ceefax) (s) (968446) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 10.10** Sunshine in a Room **10.50** Film 96 with Barry Norman **11.20** Omnibus **12.10am** FILM: The Fog (1980) **1.35** Weather
10.40 Omnibus: Paul Verhoeven — from Holland to Hollywood. A profile of the Dutch-born director of *Robocop*, *Total Recall* and *Basic Instinct* (176601)
11.30 FILM: The Beguiled (1971) starring Clint Eastwood. A wounded Union soldier seeks refuge in a Southern girls' school during the American Civil War. Directed by Don Siegel (Ceefax) (858359)
1.15am Weather (6535278)

BBC2

6.00am Working All Hours (67392)
7.00 Breakfast News (6502243)
7.15 Lassie (6581750) **7.35 The Stone Protectors** (r) (7783663) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (s) (5753156) **8.25 Songs of Praise** (r) (s) (9858311) **9.00 Blitz on Cartooning** (r) (78224) **9.30 Seabrook's Year** (r) (15243) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (6411427)
10.25 FILM: Gypsy Colt (1954). Directed by Andrew Marton (5934175)
11.40 The Fugitive (b/w) (1889682) **1.00pm William's Wish Wellingtons** (r) (s) (73567021) **1.05 Joshua Jones** (r) (28315069) **1.15 Nina Costaninovna** (1992779) **2.10 More Secret Gardens** (86901175)
2.20 FILM: Blue Fire Lady (1978). Australian equestrian adventure, directed by Ross Dimsey (422473)
3.55 News (Ceefax) (5636663) **4.00 Today's the Day** (s) (224) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (408) **5.00 Esther** (s) (7205)
5.30 NEW **The Village.** A real-life soap opera (542175)
5.55 Turning Points (895392)
6.00 Space Precinct (Ceefax) (s) (978953)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (2/2) (r) (638412)
7.30 NEW **Hidden Empire.** *Drama-documentary* series about six black people who fought personal battles for independence against colonialism and oppression (Ceefax) (s) (137)

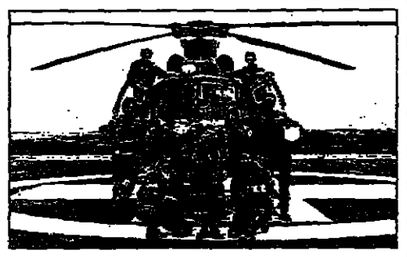


Mark Roberts holds the shin-bone (8.00pm)

8.00 NEW **Horizon: The Butchers of Boxgrove** (Ceefax) (s) (844863)
8.50 NEW **Trade Secrets.** Dog breeder Jude Simmons shares her knowledge of canine quirks (Ceefax) (836514)
9.00 Million Dollar Babies. *Dramatised story of the* Dionne quintuplets (1/2) (r) (Ceefax) (7663)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (684205)
11.15 NEW **The Brains Trust.** Mary Ann Sieghart, *an assistant editor on The Times*, chairs a revival of the popular discussion programme that *was launched in 1941 on BBC Radio's Home* Service (558576)
11.55 Weather (464408)
12.00 Perpetual Motion: The London Taxi (r) (78373)
12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University — Questions of National Identity (12488) **1.30** Business: *In Search of Identity* (35731) **2.00** Languages: French Experience (29354) **4.00** BBC *Focus: Perspective: Understanding Asthma* (20996) **4.30** Perspective: Reconstructive Surgery (16118) **5.00 Pathways to Care** (51793) **5.30 RCN Nursing Update** (79002)

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CHOICE



Airborne medics to the rescue (ITV, 9.00pm)

Call Red
ITV, 9.00pm

The latest entrant into that overcrowded genre, the *medical drama*, features an air ambulance service operating on the South Coast of England. Spectacularly-staged rescues of the injured and drowning provide the core excitement. Peripheral plot lines include tensions within the team, opposition from more conventional medical services and off-duty romance. The cynical may dismiss the show as *Casualty* with a helicopter but a final verdict must await more episodes. Tonight's opener has a lot of noise and bustle, and three overlapping stories, but has also to introduce the characters and explain how the operation works. The non-star cast echoes the emphasis on teamwork rather than individualism.

Cutting Edge: Car Thieves
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The stolen vehicle squad of Greater Manchester Police is never in danger of being underemployed. Each year 3,000 cars are stolen on its patch, some to be sold off as scrap, others to assume new identities. The cameras go to the heart of the squad's operations, as its officers prowl around scrapyards and pull vehicles apart to see whether the engines match the bodies. Then comes the unenviable bit, breaking the news to innocent owners that their cars are stolen goods and do not belong to them. A night nurse, who saved up for a Metro, essential for her job, breaks down in tears. The film builds to a perfect climax as the squad moves in on a Mr Big suspected of masterminding the shipment of stolen luxury cars to New Zealand.

Horizon: The Butchers of Boxgrove
BBC2, 8.00pm

Archaeological finds are usually of no more than specialist interest, but the discovery of the so-called Boxgrove Man in Sussex was a top news story of its day. And with reason, because the shin-bone dug up in a gravel pit was said to be half a million years old, making it one of Europe's earliest known human remains. Last year a team of experts returned to the site, to look for further clues. But experts tend to disagree. Soon there were disputes about the date of Boxgrove Man (was he as old as had been assumed?) and whether he was merely an opportunist scavenger or a big game hunter. Chris Hale's film provides an accessible review of the evidence so far. But with work proceeding it can only be an interim report.

The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna
ITV, 8.30pm

Usually the performer, hypnotist Paul McKenna turns presenter for a seven-part exploration of phenomena that seem to defy common logic. Telepathy, psychic detection, apparitions — the paranormal never fails to make good television. It is easy to be suspicious of practitioners who come from faraway places and look like pantomime wizards, while being hard-pushed to dismiss their feats. Valeri Lavrinenko from Ukraine is tonight's star guest, billed as a superman. To justify this claim he stops his pulse at will and stays under water without air for more minutes than seems humanly possible. Most impressively, he survives a stun gun which delivers 80,000-volt electric shocks to the base of his skull.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (2062040)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Quiz (s) (4515934)
9.55 London Today and weather (Teletext) (6498576)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (1262972)
10.35 This Morning (57403682) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) (6547021)
12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (6851243)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (6836934) **1.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (32295779)
1.55 Shortland Street (64558779) **2.20 Blue Heelers** (3353576)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (2440427) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) (2449798)
3.30 Rainbow Days: Best Friend's Day (s) (2263885) **3.40 Tots TV: Washing the Car** (s) (7854408) **3.50 Disney's Goofy** (7843392) **4.00 Scooby Doo** (2083779) **4.15 Harry's Mad.** (Teletext) (s) (494953) **4.45 Art Attack.** (Teletext) (9268205)
5.10 After 5 With Caron Keating (6328408)
5.40 ITN News (Teletext) (396601)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' views (822446)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (427)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (779)
7.00 NEW **Talking Telephone Numbers.** Game show hosted by Phillip Schofield and Emma Forbes (s) (4595)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (663)
8.00 NEW **World in Action.** *Marks & Spencer:* what may cause St Michael's halo to *slip?* (Teletext) (s) (3243)



Paul McKenna sheds some light (8.30pm)

8.30 NEW **The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna.** (Teletext) (s) (2750)
9.00 NEW **Call Red.** (Teletext) (5717)
10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (86243) **10.30 London Tonight** (825175)
10.40 Band of Gold. A series about a young mother of three forced into prostitution (r) (Teletext) (s) (817446)
11.40 Hunter: Bad Company American detective series (667798)
12.40am Endsleigh League Extra (2202373)
1.25 NEW **Bushell on the Box** with Garry Bushell, television critic of *The Sun* (s) (3643793)
1.55 NEW **The Crime Hour.** (2182002)
2.50 FILM: No Road Back (1957, b/w) A blind and deaf woman resorts to receiving stolen jewels in her desperation to send her son to medical school in America. Starring Margaret Rawlings. Directed by Montgomery Tully (8361793)
4.15 NEW **Nite Bites.** Cookery tips (s) (17989335)
4.25 Profile: Shara Nelson (s) (17918847)
4.35 NEW **Scotch and Irish.** Comedy and music with by Andy Cameron (s) (85137809)
5.00 The Chrystal Rose Show (r) (s) (88847)
5.30 ITN Morning News (73828)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5142205)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23359)
9.00 Fifteen To One (r) (Teletext) (63392)
9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit (r) (s) (3656392)
9.45 FILM: The Story of Alexander Graham Bell (1939, b/w) A biopic of the inventor of the *telephone*. Starring Don Ameche and Loretta Young. Directed by Irving Cummings (87960682)
11.30 Living Memory: The 1950s (r) (2595)
12.00 Crawshaw's Sketching and Drawing Course (Teletext) (s) (83156)
12.30pm Sesame Street (25069) **1.30 Wowser** (r) (76331330) **1.55 What a Hog.** *Animation directed* by Kinne Aune (42985205)
2.05 FILM: House of Strangers (1949, b/w). Joseph L. Mankiewicz's powerful directoral debut, starring Edward G. Robinson, Richard Conte, Luther Adler and Susan Hayward. (Teletext) (779446)
4.00 Backdate. (Teletext) (392)
4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (576)
5.00 Love in the Afternoon. Romance magazine. (Teletext) (s) (1408)
6.00 The Cosby Show: The Auction (r). (Teletext) (999)
6.30 Hollyoaks. Teens' soap opera, set in Chester. (Teletext) (s) (791)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (169663)
7.50 The Slot. Viewers' opinions (995446)
8.00 NEW **Screaming Reels.** *Angling with attitude* returns for a third series. . (Teletext) (s) (1885)
8.30 Wild Britain: Acrobat of the Woods. A profile of *the nuthatch* (r). (Teletext) (s) (8232)



Officers of the stolen vehicle squad (9.00pm)

9.00 NEW **Cutting Edge: Car Thieves** (Teletext) (s) (3359)
10.00 FILM: Brubaker (1980). A *prison movie* starring Robert Redford. He plays an earnest new governor appointed to Wakefield Prison Farm, a notorious Southern institution riddled with brutality and corruption. Also starring Yaphet Kotto, Jane Alexander and Morgan Freeman. Directed by Stuart Rosenberg (40845311)
12.25am FILM: Noon Wine (1984) Effective drama set in 1937. The head of the Thompson farming family is slowly losing his struggle to keep hold of his property as the Depression bites. But his fortunes are reversed with the arrival of a Swedish immigrant, who not only proves to be a hired hand from Heaven, but also lifts the spirits of the young Thompsons. However, when a bounty hunter arrives from North Dakota, the immigrant's past seems to hold some unsavoury secrets. Starring Fred Ward, Stellan Skarsgard, Pat Hingle, Lise Hilboldt and Jon Cryer. Directed by Michael Fields. (769625)
2.00 Doing It With You . . . Is Taboo. Sex between black and white people is still one of society's taboos *But in the 1990s, white men are beginning* to have relationships with black women — and the *women are welcoming their advances.* They give their reasons for this mutual attraction in a frank discussion (r). (89335) Ends at **3.00**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: **12.55** Coronation Street (6836934) **1.25** Home and Away (32295779) **1.55** Blue Heelers (4710514) **2.50-3.20** Chain Letters (4798953) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6328408) **6.25** Anglia Weather (501589) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (779) **11.40** Tales from the Crypt (855576) **12.10am** Bushell on the Box (5451083) **1.25** The Crime Hour (2624002) **2.25** European Club Rugby - The Heineken Cup (40238680) **4.30** *The Time... the Place* (53624) **5.00** An Invitation to Remember (88847)

CENTRAL

As London except: **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (64558779) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6328408) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (767934) **11.40** World Championship Boxing (857798) **4.15am** Jobfinder (3553915) **5.20** Asian Eye (3087880)

GRANADA

As London except: **12.55-1.25** Shortland Street (6836834) **1.25** Home and Away (43916935) **1.50** Cooking at the Academy (9072446) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (5983137) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6328408) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (767934) **11.40-12.40am** World Championship Boxing (857798) **4.35-5.00** Jobfinder (85137809)

HTV WEST

As London except: **12.55** Shortland Street (98371137) **1.20** Coronation Street (32296408) **2.20** Chain Letters (18281427) **2.50-3.20** Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (4798953) **5.10-5.40** Take Two (6328408) **6.25** HTV News (2882224) **6.45-7.00** *Sportsweek* (592953) **11.40** Tales from the Crypt (855576) **12.10am** Bushell on the Box (5451083) **1.25** The Crime Hour (2624002) **2.25** European Club Rugby - The Heineken Cup (40238680) **4.30** The Time... *the Place* (53624) **5.00** An Invitation to Remember (88847)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: **5.10-5.40** Ready Money (6328408) **6.25-7.00** Wales Tonight (767934)

MERIDIAN

As London except: **9.55am-10.00** Meridian News and Weather (6498576) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (6547021) **12.55** Chain Letters (6836934) **1.25** Home and Away (32295779) **1.55** A Country Practice (76325779) **2.25-3.20** Blue Heelers (5063137) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (2449798) **5.10** Home and Away (6328408) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - The Listings (902662) **6.00** *Meridian Tonight* (427) **6.30-7.00** Country Ways (779) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (825175) **11.40** The Shape of Things (855576) **12.10am** Bushell on the Box (5451083) **1.25** The Crime Hour (2624002) **2.25** European Club Rugby - The Heineken Cup (40238680) **4.30** The Time... *the Place* (53624) **5.00** An Invitation to Remember (88847)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: **9.55-10.00** Calendar News and Weather (6498576) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire Calendar News and Weather / Bidasale; Network North (6547021) **1.55** Coronation Street (76325779) **2.25** An Invitation to Remember (18280768) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire Calendar News / Bidasale; *Network North* (2449798) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6328408) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (5043982) **6.30-7.00** Tonight (779) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (825175) **11.40** Prisoner Cell Block H (917205) **12.35am** Endsleigh League Extra (2287064) **1.20** Film: Hot (6402661) **3.20** The Chart Show (3869118) **4.15** Jobfinder (4487084)

S4C

Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (23359) **9.00** Fifteen To One (83392) **9.30** Stand Still, Be Fit (3656392) **9.45** Film: The Story Of Alexander Graham Bell (87960892) **11.30** 60 Years: The 1940s (2595) **12.00pm** Right To Reply (83156) **12.30** Camberwick Green (11427) **1.00** Stot Maithrin (26446) **1.30** Crawshaws Sketching And Drawing Course (10793) **2.00** Film: The Thief Of Baghdad (53392) **4.00** Backdate (392) **4.30** The Garden Club Special (576) **5.00-5** Pump: Rownd A Rownd (3250156) **5.15** 5 Pump: Fleri (4614892) **5.30** *Countdown* (150) **6.00** Newyddion (522934) **6.15** Heno (416796) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (298427) **7.25** Y Byd Ar Bedwar (430412) **8.00** Joni Jones: Y Chewing Gum (1885) **8.30** Newyddion (6292) **8.40** *Aut Wiedersehen Pet* (3359) **10.00** Sgono (5830866) **11.05** Frasier (281717) **11.35** Film: Eyewitness (413430)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am DJ Kat (42682) **8.00** Power Rangers (33175) **8.30** Press Your Luck (32446) **9.00** Court TV (29788) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (95473) **10.30** Concentration (12682) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (42408) **12.00** Jeopardy! (51214) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (31205) **1.00** The Waltons (88088) **2.00** Geraldo (30175) **3.00** Court TV (8214) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (2398595) **4.15** Unclon (4074750) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4514) **6.00** *The Simpsons* (8205) **6.30** Jeopardy! (2885) **7.00** LAPD (8243) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8089) **8.00** Central Park West (98243) **9.00** Police Rescue (88778) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (89866) **11.00** Law and Order (56801) **12.00** Late Show (8473199) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6750002) **1.30** The Edge (12915) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (6972606)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (54674448) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (4222205) **11.00** News and Business (430156) **1.30pm** CBS News (86068) **2.30** Parliament (74953) **3.30** Parliament (7773) **4.00** News and Business (43576) **5.00** Live at Five (50501) **6.30** Tonight (95613885) **8.10** CBS 60 Minutes (402601) **9.00** News and Business (177382) **11.30** CBS News (57601) **12.30am** ABC News (259777) **1.30** *Tonight* (81679985) **2.10** CBS 60 Minutes (72510084) **3.30** Parliament (76170) **4.30** CBS News (90809) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (15828)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Viva Las Vegas (1964) (91868) **8.00** 42nd Street (1933) (21427) **10.00** Me and the Kid (1994) (35021) **12.00** Two for the Road (1967) (49250) **2.00pm** The Spy With My Face (1965) (819663) **3.50** Nine Hours to Rama (1963) (25021796) **6.00** Me and the Kid (1994) (55088) **7.30** Close-up (3137) **8.00** Caught in the Crossfire (1994) (95427) **10.00** Intersection (1994) (617779) **11.40** Frauds (1992) (286243) **1.15am** The Substitute (1993) (6606064) **2.40** When a Stranger Calls Back (1993) (3817847) **4.10-6.05** As **12.00** (403170)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Off Limits (1953) (9750) **6.00** Some Like It Hot (1959) (85224) **8.00** Shenandoah (1965) (77069) **10.00** Iceman (1984) (356021) **11.50** Stalag 17 (1953) (281663) **1.50-3.50am** Some Like It Hot (1959) (445354)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00am We're No Angels (1954) (92750) **8.00** Thumbelina (1994) (29069) **10.00** Show Business (1944) (33683) **12.00** The Vagabond King (1956) (46232) **2.00pm** The Secret of the Incas (1954) (97048) **4.00** Thumbelina (1994) (7088) **6.00** David's Mother (1994) (81224) **8.00** Mr Wonderful (1993) (83089) **10.00** Bloodlust: Subspecies III (1993) (554465) **11.30** Dangerous Touch (1992) (4978585) **1.15am** Crimelord/er (1993) (4781999) **3.00** Arcade (1989) (3055248) **4.35-6.00** David's Mother (1994) (746557)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
8.00am Umbrella Tree (31287224) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (95276066) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (39327953) **7.30** Ducktales (54177250) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (49043778) **8.30** Wonderland (49035750) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (31299972) **10.00** Umbrella Tree (56316318) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (49055514) **11.00** Muppet Babies (89201798) **11.30** Pooh Corner (69328427) **12.00** Quack Attack (49046666) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (71890456) **1.00** Wonderland (30777494) **1.30** FILM: Great Day (99854069) **3.00** Teddy Bears Picnic (20443972) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (65581066) **4.00** Quack Attack (80331383) **4.30** Ducktales (84931327) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (20455717) **5.30** Danger Bay (68931507) **6.00** Tarzan (73888430) **6.30** Dinosaurs (89981822) **7.00** Boy Meets World (20435953) **7.30** Thunder Alley (83581886) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Brothers By Choice (20313953)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (97972) **8.00** Alpine Skiing (69972) **9.30** Ski Jumping (42137) **10.30** Rally Raid (82576) **11.00** Supercross (73392) **12.00** Boxing (13834) **1.00pm** Extreme Games (22682) **2.00** Tractor (78359) **3.00** Motorsports (97311) **4.00** Adventure (16446) **5.00** Truck Racing (2798) **6.00** Boxing (42446) **7.00** Speedworld (60601) **8.30** Rally Raid (1682) **9.00** Pro Wrestling (33601) **10.00** Football (43088) **11.00** Body Building (94885) **12.00-12.30am** Rally Raid (47441)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am World Special (90069) **7.30** Racing News (79576) **8.00** Speed and Beauty (52971) **8.30** Powerboat World (51752) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (91224) **9.30** The Big League (65717) **11.30** FA Cup Special



Audrey Hepburn in *Two for the Road* (Movies, noon, 4.10am)

(64330) **1.30pm** Golf USA: Mercedes Championship (533069) **4.00** Cricket (7866) **6.00** Sport(4021) **6.30** Snowboard Tour (8501) **7.00** Scottish Football (88719717) **10.15** Sport (941311) **10.45** Cricket (376756) **12.45am** Scottish Football (727847) **2.45-3.15** Sports Centre (388267)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Cricket Hall of Fame. Allan Border (7702917) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (4953175) **12.00-1.00am** Golf: The Open 1977 (5361267)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4841040) **11.30** *Great Train Journeys* (2563224) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (5209408) **1.00** Around the World (7831717) **1.30** Travel Guide (5208779) **2.00** Trailside (8344205) **2.30** On Top of the World (2472972) **3.00** Getaway (8356040) **3.30-4.00** *Boomerang* (2484717)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm History of the RAF (8367156) **6.00-7.00** Biography: The Red Baron (5217427)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Mysteries (8348021) **7.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2480137) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Invasion Earth (4246069) **1.00** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (4270606) **1.30am** *Ray Bradbury Theatre* (8554890) **2.00-4.00** FILM: Invasion Earth (5071286)

TLC

9.00am Painting (6843088) **9.30** Gardeners' *Diary* (7283040) **10.00** *Two's Country* (7683311) **10.30** Our House (8832972) **11.00** The Painted House (5216863) **11.30** Running Repairs (9217682) **12.00** Julia Child (6822824) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (7294156) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8366408) **1.30** Local Heroes (7253427) **2.00** Dogs (2710595) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1097359) **3.00** Two's Country (2722330) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1069576)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (8389595) **7.30** Neighbours (8371330) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6822595) **8.30** EastEnders (6821865) **9.00** The Bill (6845448) **9.30** The Sullivans (7292798) **10.00** *Secret Army* (8377514) **11.00** Dallas (6357750) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6825882) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7296514) **1.00** EastEnders (6388866) **1.30** The Bill (7295885) **2.00** The Sullivans (61447311) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2866514) **3.00** Angels (2731088) **3.30** Eldorado (1061934) **4.00** Casualty (35945206) **5.05** *Generation Game* (77745682) **6.15** Come Cuss (81617798) **6.35** EastEnders (3840232) **7.00** Eldorado (2723069) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1070682) **8.00** George and Mildred (2732717) **8.30** Alas Smith and Jones (2711224) **9.00** Casualty (4088205) **10.00** The Bill (9026224) **10.35** Top of the Pops (5219021) **11.25** *Lenny Henry* (7857205) **12.00** *Dr Who. Underworld* (2703606) **12.30am** FILM: Signpost to Murder (88827880) **1.50** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (43446) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (27750) **7.00** Ready or Not (66137) **7.30** *California Dreams* (78972) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (45069) **8.30** Tiny TCC (58065088) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (49075205) **2.30** Animal Show (7750) **3.00** Sonic (7408) **3.30** New Pink Panther Show (8595) **4.00** *California Dreams* (1330) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (7514)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (5763834) **6.15** Blue (792595) **6.45** Toucan Tex (9414427) **7.00** Bathtik (7573408) **7.05** Grimmy (6230662) **7.45** *Nickloon Breakfast Feast* (1436885) **9.00** Alvin (89866) **9.30** Pee-Wee (36885) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (99330) **11.00** Children's BBC (86868) **12.00** Magic School Bus (39530) **12.30pm** Grimmy (30601) **1.00** Global Guts (80882) **1.30** Visionaries (39972) **2.00** Children's BBC (41205) **3.00** The Littlest Pet Shop (4392) **3.30** Mighty Max (3779) **4.00** The Ferals (5514) **4.30** Rugrats (1798) **5.00** Sister (6137) **5.30** Manor (5750) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (2683) **6.30** Pete and Pete (6243) **7.00** The Odyssey (3601) **7.30-8.00** Are You Afraid? (2427)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1071311) **4.30** Lifeboat (1077595) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (2734175) **5.30** Terra X (1091175) **6.00** Invention (1098868) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (6877840) **7.30** Mysterious Universe (1078224) **8.00** *Invention* (2730359) **8.30** Weather (2719866) **9.00** Islands of the Pacific (4019175) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4069834) **11.00-12.00** *Compass* (8376885)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM. The Mesa of Lost Women (6060359) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (7280953) **2.00** The Saint (7688686) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2726156) **3.30** William Tell (1089330) **4.00** FILM. The Vet (2720672) **6.00** Robin Hood (1085514) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (2077886) **7.30** The Protectors (1065750) **8.00** The Saint (4083137) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (4006601) **10.00-12.00** FILM. Stuff Stephanie in the Incinerator (5214595)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5729311) **7.00** Kilroy (9841243) **8.00** Esther (9479406) **8.30** Go for it (9478779) **9.00** The Victorian Kitchen (3300224) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2507137) **10.05** Jerry Springer (9541446) **11.00** Young and Restless (8953595) **11.55** Brookside (6585682) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (2975232) **1.30** *Crosswits* (8535392) **2.00** Agony Hour (2129863) **3.00** Live at Three (1156224) **4.00** Intasuction UK (1691595) **4.30** Crosswits (3293156) **5.05** Lingo (82663576) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (1611359) **6.00** Bewitched (1801972) **6.30** Brookside (2200205) **7.05** Food and Drink (2053446) **7.40** Joker's Wild (1111088) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (52313591) **9.00** FILM: Falsely Accused (8807750) **11.00** Sex Life (1178088) **11.30-12.00** More Sex Life (2157448)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Black Beauty (2953) **5.30** Tintin (792243) **5.55** Batman (3352241) **6.30** Catchphrase (9359) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (2717) **7

مكتبة من الأصل

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IN THE FRAME 36
THE URBAN MYTHS THAT CAN DAMAGE BIG BUSINESS

BUSINESS

CHANGE OR DIE 38
GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON A NEW LOOK FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

MONDAY JANUARY 8 1996 BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Saatchi's approach on name rejected

Maurice Saatchi has made repeated approaches to Cordiant, the advertising agency formerly known as Saatchi & Saatchi, to win back the Saatchi name.

Mr Saatchi, who with his brother, Charles, runs M&C Saatchi after the acrimonious split with their former agency, has on several occasions made informal inquiries to Cordiant.

Sir Tim Bell, spokesman for Maurice Saatchi, said: "We would like the name back because it is ours." However, Jennifer Laing, the chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, which is Cordiant's UK division, said: "We have received a number of informal approaches but the conversations do not develop very much. The name is not for sale and that is it."

Neither side would put a value on the Saatchi name. It is thought that Maurice Saatchi would offer money or a ceasefire on competition between the two companies as payment.

Lonrho date

Lonrho, the trading conglomerate, will on Thursday confirm to investors for the first time the possible demerger of its mining operations, which include a stake in Ashanti Goldfields, a strong talking point on the stock market over the past year. Analysts have been looking for a demerger of Lonrho and a sale of some of its constituent parts. One, the Dutton Forshaw car dealership, is known to be for sale.

Jury to retire

The Maxwell trial jury is expected to retire today when Lord Justice Phillips finishes his summing-up. Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell adviser, deny conspiring to defraud Maxwell pensioners. Jurors will spend the night in a hotel if they fail to reach a verdict.

Festive spending spree expected to defy pessimists

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CHRISTMAS was late as usual this year, but for most retailers, when it finally arrived, it came with a vengeance.

The optimism held by many City analysts is expected to be backed up over the next few weeks by Christmas trading statements from a string of Britain's largest retailers. The Christmas trading period is crucial and in many cases accounts for a substantial chunk of retailers' annual profits.

According to a survey by the Finance & Leasing Association, consumers embarked on a pre-Christmas spending spree in the high street and on cars. The association found that the use of plastic cards in November shot to £610 million — a 16 per cent leap from last time.

The raft of retailers who this week unveil how they fared over the festive season include Next, Argos, Boots, Dixons, House of Fraser, Sears and Carpetright. The line-up is expected to feature a fair clump of star performers, but not without a few bad shocks from unexpected quarters.

The City harbours a few pessimists, who before Christmas were spreading whispers of concern and prophesying hard times on the high street. The purse-closing combination of a Budget that failed to lift consumer confidence and one of the warmest autumns on record hardly laid the foundations for a lively Christmas. But as with last year, in the main, the pessimists are likely to be proved wrong.

The star performers are expected to include Argos, Next and Dixons. Analysts have pencilled in double digit sales growth for Argos, the catalogue retail chain that left many of its rivals standing in Christmas 1994 with a staggering 17 per cent leap in sales. On Friday, Argos is expected to reveal a booming trade for toys in the run up to Christmas.

Kingfisher, the Woolworths to B&Q group, is also thought to have notched up strong sales of toys. This would be in sharp contrast to last year, when a combination of mispricing and distribution problems conspired to knock sales.

Their successes are thought to have been at the expense of Toys 'R' Us.

Next, the fashion retailer that surprised even the most fervent of fans last Christmas, is forecast to turn in sales growth of more than 10 per cent. And tales of shop assistants pinned to the walls by hordes of shoppers indicates that Next is enjoying the January sales.

On Wednesday, Dixons announces its interim results together with a trading update that is expected to reveal a buoyant Christmas trade, particularly in personal computers.

The lame ducks of the retail sector are expected to include House of Fraser and Sears, the British shoe to womenswear group. Shoe sales are particularly prone to weather patterns, and the warm autumn is expected to have taken a heavy toll. As a result, analysts are forecasting a sharp drop in full-year profits.

Sears was yesterday forced to play down mounting speculation that it might pull out of the traditional chains of Saxone and Dolcis.

The company has been concentrating efforts on building up new ranges such as Shoe Express, the self-service budget chain, and Shoe City, the large out-of-town outlets. Sears expanded Shoe Express by about 100 stores last year and analysts see further scope for development. The company's trading update is due on Thursday.

Last January, House of Fraser upset the City with a profit warning as margins suffered as a result of deep discounting on unsold winter clothing. House of Fraser is known to have had a poor 1995 up until the festive season, but a last-minute surge at Christmas may provide the necessary salvation. However, few analysts consider this likely.

Companies, page 35

Decision day for Granada's Forte bid

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE full board of Granada will meet today to decide the next stage in one of the most tense City takeover battles in recent history, the £3.2 billion hostile onslaught on Forte, the hotelier to caterer.

Full board backing is needed for a higher bid, with observers accepting that Granada's offer at its current level stands no chance of success. But the Forte share price has performed so strongly in the light of a successful defence campaign that a higher offer could severely stretch Granada's finances.

Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, was giving nothing away last night. He said no firm decision had been reached, although his company is believed to have put in place all the necessary mechanisms for a higher offer. These could include a "dawn raid" on Forte's shares tomorrow morning, the day the Granada board's decision must, under City takeover rules, be announced. If a new offer is pitched above Forte's closing price on Friday of 345p, Granada can then buy aggressively on the stock market up to 9.9 per cent of Forte's issued share capital.

Mr Staunton insisted yesterday that all the options remained open. These boil down to a refusal to raise the sum on offer, which would be an effective abandonment of the bid, or a higher offer.

The City expects Granada to come back with more cash on the table. At Friday's closing price, the current offer is worth just short of 328p in Granada shares or 321.67p in cash. To stand any chance of success, the offer would have to be raised to somewhere between 360p and 370p. If the board decides to go ahead, this evening will see frantic activity in the City as the directors try to secure underwriting for a higher offer.

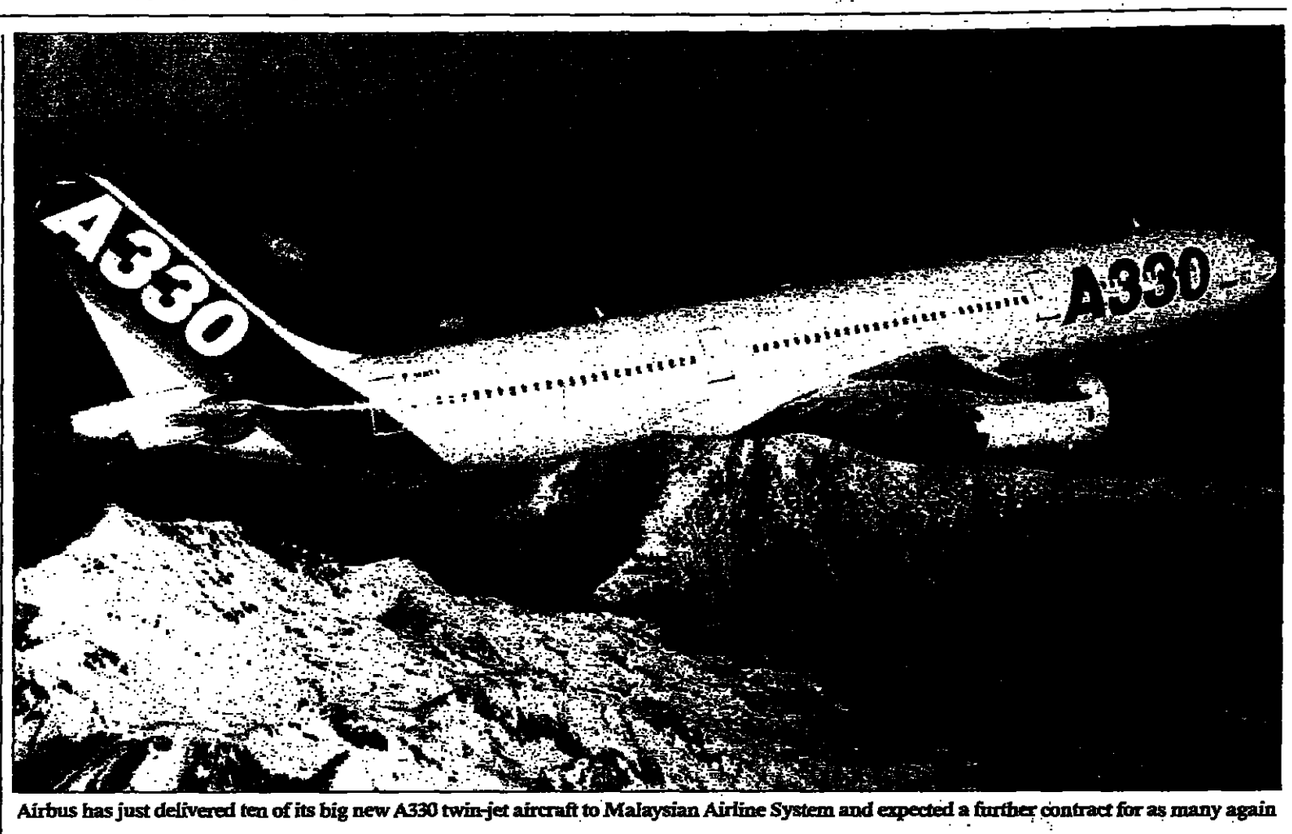
But Granada is already locked in dispute with one independent City source over the proper valuation of Forte. Kleinwort Benson said last week that after the various defensive measures announced by Sir Rocco Forte, the Forte chairman, including disposal to shareholders of its stake in the Savoy Group and an £800 million share buyback, the shares would be worth 367.5p.

Mr Staunton said this was based on information in Forte's defence document, and Granada will be talking to Kleinwort today. Continuing the war of words between the companies, he claimed the Forte document had been "designed to mislead".

Forte scents victory. "There's some high ground it will be very difficult for them to recapture now," said one insider.

If Granada renews the assault, Forte directors are prepared for another round of meetings to retain the loyalty of its shareholders, both institutional and private. Olga Polizzi, Sir Rocco's sister, is primed to take a strong part in those involving private investors.

Should Granada fall at this fence, it has the option of returning for the roadside and motorway catering businesses of Forte by topping a conditional offer for them of £1.05 billion from Whitbread, the brewer. The company is refusing to discuss this option until the outcome of the bid is known.



Airbus has just delivered ten of its big new A330 twin-jet aircraft to Malaysian Airline System and expected a further contract for as many again

Airbus takes on Boeing with 40% price cut

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is offering to cut the price of its $140 million A330 twin-jets by 40 per cent in a desperate bid to prevent Boeing carrying off one of its most valued customers.

Boeing has been selling some of its smaller craft at prices a quarter less than the cost of production, hoping to cut that cost by the time of delivery, in a move that reflects the often disastrous cut-throat competition in the aircraft-making industry. The big producers are determined to ensure that their craft are flown by airlines that serve rapidly expanding economies, in particular the "Asian tigers".

Malaysian Airline System (MAS) is believed to have been offered ten or more A330s at just $70 million each by the European aircraft-makers' consortium, made up of British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Casa of Spain, industry sources say. The offer was made after Boeing, the world's leading civil jet builder, launched a price war to try to stem the loss of market share to its European rival.

Plans by MAS to announce an order for 25 new long-haul aircraft, split between Boeing of Seattle and its Toulouse-based rival, were put on hold as the manufacturers chased each other lower.

Boeing is already assured of an order for about ten of its 747 jumbos, at $160 million each, because Airbus has neither craft to match it. Airbus, which has just delivered ten of its big new A330 twin-jets to MAS, expected a contract for as many again, plus perhaps four of its super-long-range A340s.

But industry sources say Boeing has shown an extraordinary determination to secure the entire contract.

Aided by presidential lobbying by Bill Clinton, the American company has already extended its dominance in sales to Japanese airlines. At the end of last year, Boeing won the lion's share of a crucial contract with Singapore Airlines with an extraordinary offer.

Airbus had been expecting MAS to confirm an order for A330s and A340s on January 4. A spokesman confirmed that MAS was still reviewing the offers and indicated that Airbus would fight to the last for the contract. "It ain't over till the fat lady sings," he said.

Labour criticises £1m jobs initiative

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is today launching a £1 million initiative aimed at boosting employment. Labour has dismissed the move as a pre-election stunt and an illegitimate use of public money.

Television advertisements that begin running today will emphasise the measures the Government has in place to help people to look for jobs. There will also be a press campaign supported by a telephone hotline and a new version of the Government's *Just the Job* booklet. Ministers emphasise that the help available for the unemployed includes guaranteed job interviews with employers, coaching in job-hunting techniques and the opportunity of acquiring a vocational qualification. Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, said: "The time has never been more right to find a job. Unemployment is continuing to fall steadily. At the same time, record numbers of job vacancies are being advertised and filled in Jobcentres."

Ministers accept that the TV advertisements are the first time that the Government has advertised the assistance available to jobseekers since before the last election in 1991, but insist there is no electoral link.

Michael Meacher, Labour's shadow Employment Secretary, said it was wrong for the Government "to use taxpayers' money for what are essentially party political purposes".

Mr Forth said: "If we were thinking in electoral terms, I don't think we would be doing it now."

No golden share for Rail

BY MARTIN WALLER

RAILTRACK, the owner of the British Rail network of track, signalling and stations, is expected to be privatised without the normal "golden share" that would protect it from a foreign takeover bid.

Previous state sell-offs have involved such golden shares, held by the Government either in perpetuity, as with British Gas or BT, to protect vital parts of the nation's infrastructure, or for a five-year period.

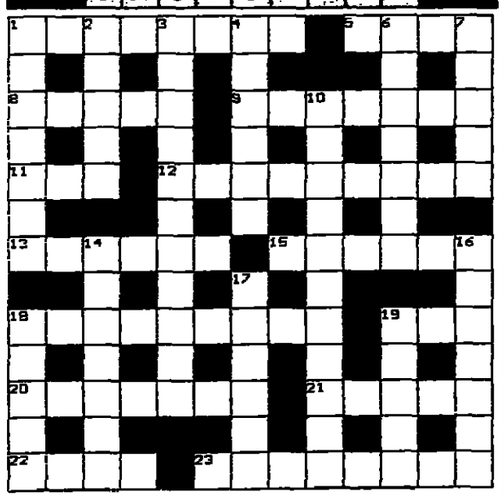
The electricity industry and most of the water industry were sold with a built-in five-year block on foreign ownership, whose expiry prompted the wave of takeover bids in those sectors last year. However, advisers to the Railtrack privatisation are coming to the view that the company needs no such protection, even though final terms of the £1.5 billion-plus sale are not expected until nearer the May sell-off date.

The water and electricity industries were protected because it was felt that their managements needed time to adjust to the different pressures of being a quoted company. However, because much of the Railtrack board, including its chairman, Bob Horton, have come from outside the industry, advisers do not think that the company needs such protection.

The decision to drop the golden share is open to an alternative interpretation — that it is designed to boost the price raised from the float by minimising interference in Railtrack's affairs by any future Labour government. Labour has pledged not to renationalise the railways, but a golden share would enable it to ensure that the company did not slip into foreign hands.

Share prices of most quoted utilities have been underpinned recently by prospects of bids from overseas.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 672

ACROSS
1 Translate from code (8)
5 Fifty per cent (4)
8 African country, capital Accra (5)
9 Lyre-player, lost Eurydice (7)
11 Advice; end; dump (3)
12 Lopped off short (9)
13 Paying guest (6)
15 Savoury tart (6)
18 Put into trance (9)
19 Make a fuss of (3)
20 Raised writing for blind (7)
21 Pigtail; orderly line (5)
22 (Afrikaner's) long journey (4)
23 Computer online link (8)

DOWN
1 Expressed in numbers (7)
2 A fastener; hold firmly (5)
3 Behave comically (4,3,4)
4 *Ten Commandments* book (6)
6 Sterile, clean (7)
7 Joined by heat (5)
10 Striking, vividly pretty (11)
14 To corrupt morally (7)
16 Beseech (7)
17 London street bird (6)
18 Costume; custom (5)
19 Perform toilet with one's beak (5)

SOLUTION TO No 671

ACROSS: 1 Bucket shop 8 Fallout 9 Ennui 10 Thaw 11 Prurient 13 Quote 14 Duple 16 Alacrity 17 Sing 20 Glove 21 Elusive 22 Dead weight

DOWN: 1 Befit 2 Collaborator 3 Eton 4 Saturn 5 Override 6 Enterprising 7 Virtue 12 Reprieve 13 Quango 15 Attend 18 Guest 19 Mute

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■ DANCE

Castanets out at Sadler's Wells, as Corazon Flamenco brings torrid melodrama from Spain
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ MIME

Companies from around the world gather for London's International Mime Festival
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ THEATRE

Betjemania at the King's Head in Islington is a musical romp through choice poems
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ FILM

Paul Verhoeven's *Showgirls* opens in Britain, having been banned in Ireland
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Circus of the imagination

Benedict Nightingale on the London premiere of a spellbinding new show from Cirque du Soleil

Why quarrel with Elizabeth Taylor, who is quoted in the ads as describing *Saltimbanco* as a "*show d'une beauté incroyable*"? Indeed, I would go further and say that, if I had to choose between an enormous diamond, one of Miss Taylor's ex-husbands, and a permanent seat at the Cirque du Soleil's ringside, there would be no contest. Only Soleil could be relied on to keep the organs of wonder fully exercised: eyes, ears and the dreamy bits in between.

Everyone should know by now that this Canadian-inspired outfit is different from the circuses of yore. There are no gloomy elephants bowing their knees, no tigers being menaced with chairs; no hyperactive midgets pouring water over each other, nor, for that matter, any acts that occur in boastful isolation. Instead, the Soleil folk create a complete imaginative world that acknowledges tradition, seems to reach into the future, yet is ceaselessly busy in the present. Think of a commedia troupe from Andromeda, or a fairyland ruled by a 21st-century Oberon; add sci-fi sounds and sweet airs; and you have some of their quality.

The impression they give from the first is of tourists who have come from outer or inner space to inspect us earthlings and seek our approval. When they come pouring in through the audience with their beaky noses, weird hats and motley tunics and bodystockings, you almost expect them to start chorusing "take us to your leader". Instead, they chatter away in a lingo that consists largely of amazed squawks and taken-aback chirrups, and launch into the odd experiment on individual spectators.

A little boy is helped to do backward somersaults, a young man's T-shirt whipped off, a pompous-looking gent summarily pushed from his seat: all at the behest of the strangest of ringmasters, a great Mikado in one-piece yellow who stands on a vast stained-glass window placed horizontally at the back of the stage. Soleil may be visiting our galaxy, but it is also sucking us into its own.

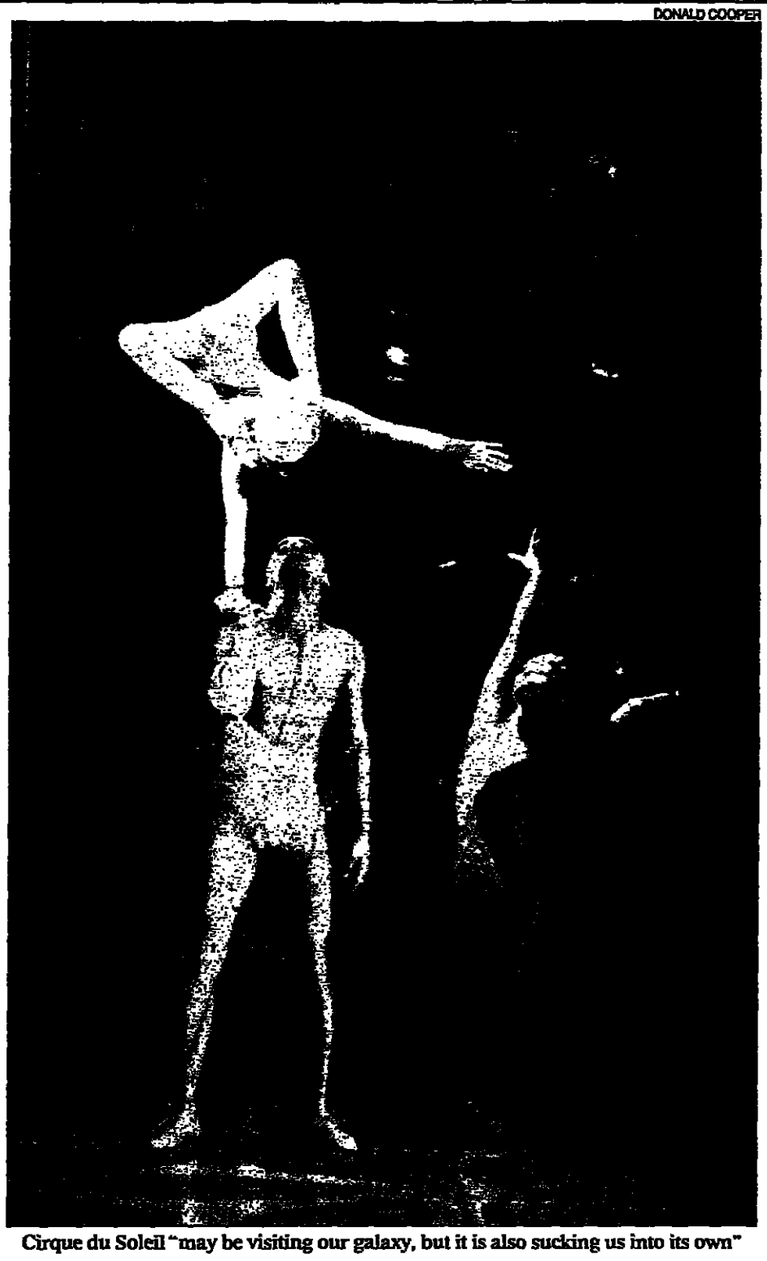
Saltimbanco
Albert Hall

What follows is and isn't a series of excellent acts. Yes, a woman called Cheng Wei deftly whisks between tightropes and onto the saddle of a unicycle in the sky. Yes, Miguel Herrara juggles with seven white balls, sometimes moving them so fast they look like whirling snowflakes. But the rest of the company are never far away: watching, supporting, and flaunting costumes that embrace an infinite variety of alien chic: hair of wool, wire or feathers, hats that may be boaters, bowlers or jester's caps with lanterns hanging off them, the odd tail and pair of wings, and gorgeous colours galore.

Because they have arms and legs you are obliged to agree that, whatever their plane or planet of origin, they are not exactly non-human. But some different evolutionary process has given their limbs capacities not known in the Nightingale or (I suspect) any other *Times* household. Can William Rees-Mogg twist his wife into a human noose and slide her down his body, and then form a child into a tiny oblong and drop him down his wife? Intellectually, maybe: but surely not in quite the way an all-yellow Anton Tchelnokov does with his all-blue spouse and all-white son.

The performers skim up and spin round poles; leap off a giant swing 30 feet in the air and multi-somersault onto a mattress; bounce and whirl to the flies on elastic. An Incredible Hulk lifts an upside-down Hercules onto his palms, then onto his feet and upwards. Gravity is less defied than flouted by beings who look like anything from gladiators to dragon-flies to the results of a mythic coupling between a parrot and a Mr Blobby. Even the funny-man, Rene Bazinet, is not an earthbound clown, but a goofy, toothy mime with the skill to create a jungle where there is only a bare stage. The old-style circus ignored the imagination. This fills and lifts it. I cannot recommend it too highly.

DONALD COOPER



Cirque du Soleil "may be visiting our galaxy, but it is also sucking us into its own"

LONDON CONCERTS

New talent starts on a high note

Angelika Kirchschlager
Wigmore Hall

SHE is poised for *Rosenkavalier* and *Figaro* in Vienna, for the Schubertiade in Feldkirch — and for *Idomeneo*, with Domingo, in 1997: but when Angelika Kirchschlager gave her debut recital as one of the Wigmore Hall's Young Mastersingers, few in London knew quite what to expect.

The Salzburg-born mezzo-soprano's five introductory folksongs by Brahms were ideally chosen: they uncovered a natural voice already animated by quick-witted musical and verbal perception.

For Schumann's *Maria Stuart Lieder*, the dark underside of her mezzo-soprano cast its shadow on the long vowels of the *Farewell to France*, pressing forward in urgent, pleading prayer and containing with calm dignity the inner intensity of her *Farewell to the World*.

And then Schubert. Songs like *Am Bach im Frühling* and *Fischerweiser* seemed to sing themselves, so supple was the voice, so quick the musical intelligence. Yet *Der Zwerg* was a powerfully stage-managed double-act with pianist Helmut Deutsch.

Kirchschlager is a keen champion of the music of Erich Korngold, whose lyrical gift and versatility are well shown in the *Five Songs Op 38* of 1947. Kirchschlager relished the broad, voluptuous melody of *Gluckwunsch* as readily as the armada-shots of the *Old English Song* and the wayward rhapsody of a German-language version of Shakespeare's *My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun*.

Hugo Wolf is clearly also close to Kirchschlager's heart, as five vividly animated songs from the *Italienisches Liederbuch* showed. Again, with Deutsch's acutely observed accompanying, her *Gypsy Woman* and *Noble Warrior* inhabited their miniature dramas with the sense of style and of bright-eyed communication which augur so well for this singer's future.

HILARY FINCH

Medieval magic

New London Consort
Purcell Room

EVEN listeners reasonably familiar with medieval music must have been startled by the feast served up here. In the late 14th century a bumper collection of musical revolutionaries — the Stockhausens of their day — gathered in the courts of northern Italy and southern France, and particularly around the papal court at Avignon. Nobody really knows why.

Their "ars subtilior" — literally, subtle art — is astonishing even to our "heard it all" ears. Typically, a three-part chanson will spin off into a seemingly unhinged display of rhythmical and melodic complexity, with little apparent relationship between the individual voices until the final cadences. The demands made on the performers' concentration and technique is formidable. But still more astonishing is the way in which these flamboyant flourishes of contrapuntal virtuosity stretch the "rules" of medieval music to the point where they can encompass the most convoluted syncopations or shuddering harmonic switches.

The texts are often equally subtle: sophisticated conceits drawing delicate parallels between love, death and the changing seasons. Several make pointed references to birds, allowing the composers (the best-known being Matheus de Perusio) to take the voice on wild vocal cartwheels in imitation of nightingale or lark. Catherine Bott's singing was heroic and mesmerising; but the playing from the Consort (two lutes, recorder, fiddle) was no less exemplary.

So was their boldness in exhuming this exotic and tangled array. Such a programme reminds us that the tension in late 20th-century musical life between the avant-garde complexity of the Birtwistle school and the "new simplicity" of the minimalists would have been well understood 600 years ago.

RICHARD MORRISON

Another noisy night in gangsta paradise

Coolio/L.V.
Grand, SW11

The perceived apathy shown by the British pop fan towards the American phenomenon of gangsta rap did not necessarily end when Coolio's *Gangsta's Paradise* soared to No 1 here last October. For all the brooding power of the West Coast rapper's spoken word, the record's sharpest hook came courtesy of a certain old-fashioned Motown tunesmith named Stevie Wonder.

The man who supplied the unmissable vocals for *Gangsta's Paradise*, an updated version of Wonder's *Pastime Paradise*, was L.V., who graced the Grand stage in a brief warm-up as Coolie began his European tour. Previewing his own album's release next month, L.V. revealed some surprisingly traditional soul tendencies. He covered Alexander O'Neal's *If You Were Here Tonight* before giving us his recent, solo chart entry *Throw Your Hands Up*.

Coolio, for all his sudden escalation to fame with the song reported to be the bestselling single in the world last year, is no one-hit wonder. The man who rapped his way out of the mean streets of the Compton district of Los Angeles had America's twentieth biggest single of 1994 with *Fantastic Voyage*, the shape of samples to come in that it combined his verbal attack with a cleverly chosen, easily remembered soul motif.

But since Coolio is now the man who took gangsta rap on to breakfast television, there were more than a few blank faces at the Grand when the majority of his set consisted of all the verbal aggression of his chart-topper and not much of the melodic sweetener.

Appearing with a full band including three other rappers, he dropped one verbal bomb after another in a tirade of organised shouting. Respite came when he invited audience members on to the stage to add some rhymes of their own, but the sledgehammer was back in action for a well-meant but maladroit sermon about Aids.

The new single, *Too Hot*, with the Kool and the Gang song of the same name as its backbone, was another exercise in unashamed appropriation, and L.V. reappeared for an exultant *Gangsta's Paradise*. Most of the remainder was fine for committed gangstas and their molls, but a little acidic to more mainstream tastes.

PAUL SEXTON

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

WAGNER'S *TANNHAUSER*
Reviewed by John Warrack



In 1883, the last year of his life, Wagner was still considering doing something about *Tannhäuser*, the opera he first produced in Dresden in 1845 and then revised for Paris in 1861. The story is more complicated than that, but one can accept a "Dresden" version, and a "Paris" version that confuses matters by adding, to suit local convention, the Venusberg ballet.

The earliest of all recordings goes back to 1930 Bayreuth and Wagner's son Siegfried, who approved the project just before his death. Reissued on Pearl (GEMM CDS 9941), it has some splendid singing from Maria Müller as Elisabeth, but must remain a specialist's version. Karl Elmendorff conducts.

The other versions divide into "Dresden" and "Paris", with Wolfgang Sawallisch making a compromise on Philips (434 607-2) for Bayreuth in 1962. He has Wolfgang Windgassen, the leading heldentenor of his day; a magnificently sensual Grace Bumbry as Venus and the young and appealing Anja Silja's Elisabeth.

Both "Dresden" versions come from EMI. Franz Konwitschny has Hans Hopf in the title role, with Marianne Schech and Elisabeth Grümmer as Venus and Elisabeth (CMS 7 63214-2). A rather mediocre recording does not help to give this preference over the version conducted by Bernard Haitink — a finely controlled performance if not of the grandeur that has since distinguished his Wagner. But it has Lucia Popp brightly contesting the allure of Waltraud Meier's Venus for Klaus König's only moderately appealing Tannhäuser (CDS 7 47296-8).

All the same, that is the version for strict "Dresden" collectors. Anyone else is directed towards Paris. Here, for DGG (427 625-2), Giuseppe Sinopoli has the cachet of Placido Domingo in the title role. But, despite the famed elegance of voice, this is not one of Domingo's greatest operatic interpretations. There is, though, an alluring Venus in Agnes Baltsa, and in Cheryl Studer the finest of all Elisabeths. Domingo's fans will give this pride of place, but there is a stronger case for the 1971 Georg Solti recording for Decca (414 581-2, £36.99). René Kollo understands the music better than Domingo, and is far more moving. Helga Dernesch is a stately Elisabeth; her rival is the formidably sexy Venus of Christa Ludwig. Although he can tend to treat excitement as the prime musical virtue, Solti draws wonderful playing from the Vienna Philharmonic.

● *Recommended recordings can be ordered from The Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Schumann's* Carnaval

From Seville to Surbiton

Carmen
Barbican

Travelling Opera is what it says it is, a peripatetic group taking performances to theatres large and small around the country. Officially ten years old, it is now well-established, but has been in operation for longer than that under the aegis of its founder Peter Knapp and under various names. Knapp sings, conducts, translates, adapts, directs, and indulges in no false modesty in his programme notes. The company launched its latest nine-centre tour on Thursday with a revival of Knapp's three-year-old production of *Carmen* at the Barbican.

Performing Bizet's opera with a cast of only 14 necessitates radical changes; cuts, reordering and some ugly spatchcocking in the third act reduce the running time to around two hours. Balance had not quite been sorted out on the first night (there was, I think, some discreet "sound enhancement" at work), so it is difficult to judge Knapp's translation, and phoney Spanish accents that came and went were no aid to comprehension.

As for the production itself, well, Peter Brook need lose no sleep: it was limited largely to telling people where to stand, and devising brazen flounces for the girls, village-hall macho gestures for the boys and a great deal too much *rhubarb*. The characters remained undefined save at the most basic level — Carmen a tart, José a wimp — and there was an inescapable feel of Home Counties to the evening, Surbiton rather than Seville.

What made it not just bearable but actually rather enjoyable was the playing and singing. The conductor Roderick Dunk showed an instinctive feel for the music, shaping the tunes with real insight, and the playing of the 12-strong chamber orchestra was consistently well shaded and nuanced (Richard Balcombe's reorchestration is properly faithful to the spirit of Bizet). With Dunk in charge, audiences on the tour will readily understand the reasons for *Carmen's* eternal appeal.

And there is appealing singing from fresh young voices. Janet Mooney's mezzo is firm-toned, warm and with a resinous edge when needed in the finale, and she phrased her hit numbers very seductively. Mark Luther (José) is a light lyric tenor and doesn't pretend to be anything else; the loudest note he sang all evening was, unfortunately, the soft B flat at the end of his sensitive account of the Flower Song, but never mind — he is a careful and musical singer. Talitha Theobald's bright, cleanly defined Micaëla gave consistent pleasure. If there were one or two examples of the Art of Coarse Opera Singing lower down the cast, Diana McNeillis's fruity Mercédès aimed and achieved higher than that. The energy and commitment of all were beyond reproach. On its own terms and purely musically, this touring *Carmen* has a lot going for it.

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Starting today: A four-part series looking at every aspect of ageing...

■ For centuries, scientists have pondered the question of ageing and searched for an elixir of youth. This week in *The Times* we ask if you really can turn back the clock.
■ Today we explore genetics and ageing, examine the theory that large babies live longer, and see what keeps people feeling young. Below, **Jane Gordon** tells of the day she realised she was no longer young

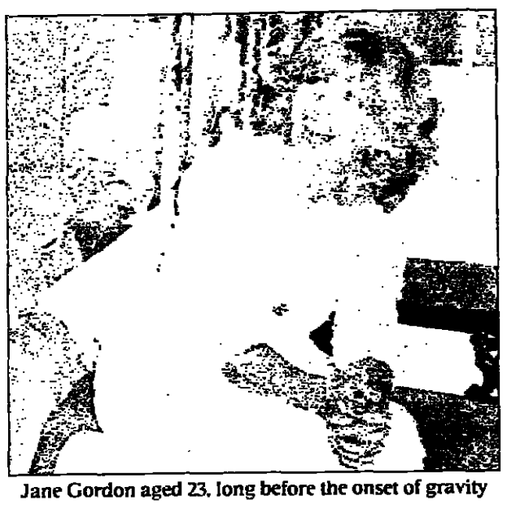


PETER NICHOLLS

TOMORROW

■ The importance of free radicals and nutrition, by Nigel Hawkes
■ Foods to keep you young, by Rita Carter
■ Alan Coren tells the truth about men growing older
■ Dr Thomas Stuttaford advises men on how to keep their sex lives young

How Dominic from the Love Shack made me feel my age



Jane Gordon aged 23, long before the onset of gravity

THE OLDER WOMAN'S TALE

It was 16-year-old Dominic Sharland who finally made me understand what people meant when they talked about "looking the demon in the eye". It was one of those hot, hot days last summer and Dominic was sitting in our garage talking to my daughter and a group of their friends. The floor of the graffiti-covered Love Shack (as the garage had become known) was littered with empty cans of beer and abandoned packets of cigarettes. Thousands, maybe millions, of teeming teenage hormones hung in the air around them like particles of dust.

It might seem ridiculous to say that the short journey through that garage to our back door became for me the rite of passage between youth and middle age, but the 20 yards I walked, carrying six Sainsbury's carrier bags and a couple of stone in extra weight, made me realise that I was no longer, well, young.

I can't remember exactly what it was that Dominic said, but I know that the way in which this perfect specimen of emergent manhood, this vision from a Levis ad, said my name — not "Jane" but "Mrs Gordon" — projected me into a mid-life panic.

For the first time I found myself seriously considering a cliché that, heaven knows, I had heard often enough in my own blushing youth: "If only I were 20 years younger . . ."

Later that day I confided to a friend how awful *I had found* the spectre of Dominic looking at me — or rather through me — as if I were the invisible middle-aged woman.

"Oh no," he said, in a placatory tone. "I'm sure the boys don't see you like that. I'm sure they see you more as a Mrs Robinson figure . . ." Which somehow compounded my distress. In my head, although long since out of the sexual fray, I still saw myself in the role of juvenile lead rather than that of the bitter, unfulfilled older woman.

In the bright blue eyes of Dominic I might be a sad old wrinkly, but I still saw myself, until that particular day, as I had been 20 years before.

Of course, there had been the occasional indication that every woman's enemy, gravity, had caught up with me. In both mind and body I was not as amusing as I had once been. I had started to tut-tut at *youth cult television series* such as *Bottom*, and I had begun to buy "comfortable" clothes in stretch elastic rather than in figure-hugging Lycra.

Then there were those other irritating little signs of the spiral towards death — greengrocers calling me "love" rather than "darling", backache, *falling asleep reading my* youngest child his bedtime story, voting for the Liberal Democrats in the last election, not being able to read the

> I was shocked into a frantic, and sometimes tragic, five-month search for the elixir of youth

maps in the *A-Z* or the microwave instructions on the M&S ready-made meals, and finding myself — once the scourge of the highways — driving a Volvo estate car in the slow lane listening to *Sounds of the Seventies* compilation tapes.

But it took Dominic to shock me into a frantic — and at times tragic — five-month period in which I was to search relentlessly for the elixir of youth. It took Dominic to make me realise that when it came to ageing, to "looking the demon in the eye", I was, as they say, in denial.

A week after the Love Shack incident, I enrolled in one of those slimming clubs that are for the overweight and middle-aged, rather like five-step programmes for alcoholics. Standing up among a group of women in similar circumstances and saying: "My name is Mrs Gordon and I am a fat, middle-aged person" did give me a little comfort, even if the *other women reminded me*, even more soundly, of the enormity of my mission.

A stern and matronly woman lectured us all in evangelistic tones about what she called her "loser-friendly weight-loss regime". "Mind over platter," she would say as she eyed our bulging bodies.

My mid-life urge to recapture my lost youth was not limited merely to diet. I found myself scanning the shelves of health shops for pills and potions that could accelerate my rejuvenation. I took Royal Jelly, infusions of ginseng, spoonfuls of vitamin E supplement and shovels of something I cannot pronounce (or spell) that came from the bark of trees found in Central America. But still there were no visible changes, no evidence that I had arrested my decline and fall.

My concern with ageing turned into an obsession. I bought a magnifying mirror and tortured myself looking at the creeping signs of age — the little lines, the open pores, the pockets of flesh that had settled on my cheekbones. I spent hours reading beauty *magazines searching for the* latest anti-ageing technology. I became an authority on enzymes, elastins, antioxidants, AHAs and Retin A.

There was, of course, a price to pay for this dreadful self-absorption. The vast resources of the cosmetic industry had seen me coming. Estée Lauder had come up with an "instantly gratifying" under-eye cream. Lancôme promised me that in just eight days I could have "visibly rejuvenated skin", and Yves Saint Laurent — at £30 for a small tube of a cementy gel — offered me an "instant facelift" that left me, *on the one evening I tried it*, unable to move my mouth to smile, talk or eat.

To be fair, there was a slight improvement. "Don't tell me," a friend said one day over lunch, "you're on that HRT, aren't you?"

Slowly, I began to see small signs of rejuvenation. Well, signs that I might temporarily be able to hold back the sands of time.

At one of my slimming club meetings, some three months *after the moment of* truth in the Love Shack, I stood up and realised that although I was still mouthing the required words "My name is Mrs Gordon and I am a fat, middle-aged person", they were no longer entirely true. I had, through masochistic self-application, cured one of my addictions. I was now just a regular-sized middle-aged person.

And although I knew by then that recapturing the youth I had only just realised I had lost was an impossibility, the process of searching for it had, in its way, had a curative effect.

For at some point during my relentless search for self-improvement, my husband, who had stuck stoically by me through thick and thin, suddenly noticed that, in fact, I had gone from thick to thin and admitted that he rather liked the results. Romance, long lost from our frantic family life, returned.

But I didn't realise that I had come to terms with the ageing process until, one cold Saturday afternoon in early December, with the Love Shack *closed for the winter*, I walked into the kitchen to find Dominic and a dozen other teenagers littered round the rooms.

"Oh, Mrs Gordon," he said as I bent down in my new size 10 jeans and placed my shopping bags on the floor, "you look well . . ."

I stood up and looked the demon in his bright blue eyes and it was all right. I knew that he still saw me as a sad old wrinkly, but the crucial difference was that now I saw myself as a rather contented old wrinkly.

I didn't even mind when I heard *him* say, *as I left the* room and went upstairs: "She must have been quite attractive when she was young . . ."



Jane Gordon now: "If teenagers still see me as an old wrinkly, at least I am a contented one"

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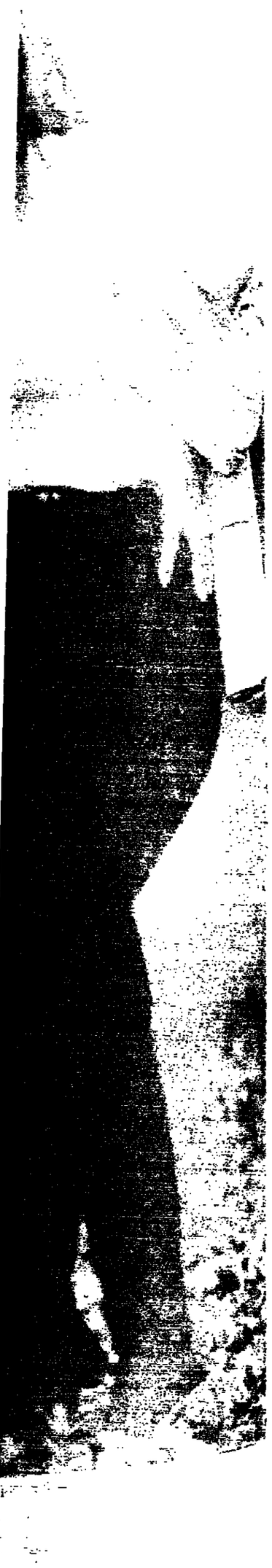
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Healthy genes matter more than a healthy body



Does the secret of long life lie in our genes? Scientists broadly agree that it does, but are not sure exactly how much of a blessing or burden our parents are.

"Lifespan depends to a large extent on heredity," according to the *British Medical Association Complete Family Health Encyclopaedia*. Professor Tom Kirkwood from Manchester University, a leading researcher in the hunt for the genes which influence ageing, is more cautious. "There is an inherited factor, but the degree is quite small... parents need to live a very long time for it to make much difference," he says.

That genes are involved at all is beyond scientific doubt. Researchers such as Professor Kirkwood, who is looking into the biological causes of ageing, cite evidence that those who reach a ripe old age are more likely to have long-lived parents. Quantifying this is quite tricky, but various studies put the fraction of longevity passing down to the next generation at about 20 per cent. So, if each of your parents lived 25 years longer than expected, you would stand to gain an extra five years.

Secondly, a genetic defect can give rise to premature ageing, implying a genetic component for the process of ageing. Those with the most well-known condition, Werner's syndrome, begin to age as adolescents. They lose their hair and teeth and become susceptible to diseases associated with the elderly, such as cataracts and arthritis.

Werner's syndrome may be linked to abnormally fast cell division. As cells divide, telomeres — DNA sequences found at the end of chromosomes — shrink. One theory still in its early stages but already attracting massive hype and big investment from excitable, ageing millionaires is that, by manipulating telomere length, we can halt the malfunctioning of cells that lead to ageing.

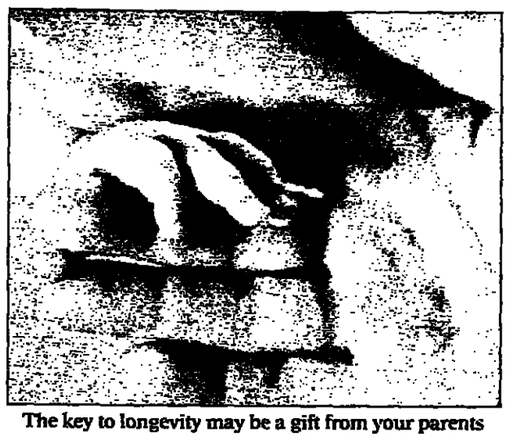
However, Professor Kirkwood issued a note of caution to elderly millionaires hoping to live forever. "The telomere work is only one of a spectrum of mechanisms involved in the ageing of dividing cells. Also, non-dividing cells such as brain cells are equally important to ageing."

Thirdly, lifespan varies according to species, suggesting that similar patterns of gene inheritance give members of the same species comparable lifespans.

It is the sphere of influence of the genetic connection that is a matter of debate. "There are also non-genetic influences such as lifestyle, diet and environment," says Professor Kirkwood.

The balance between these factors is unknown and probably differs between people — after all, many centenarians attribute their longevity to smoking, drinking and ignoring medical advice. Indeed, certain personality traits, some of which may have genetic roots, might well be a key to their survival.

THE GENE CONNECTION



The key to longevity may be a gift from your parents

John Grimley Evans, Professor of Clinical Gerontology at Oxford University, in a report by the Medical Research Council said that cantankerous and wilful souls were more likely to live longer than milder mannered people.

The genetic fraction of the ageing equation is not likely to be one gene. "We expect at least tens of genes to be involved," says Professor Kirkwood. "These might be hierarchical, so that some are more important than others. But many genes are involved in health and disease, all of which might contribute to the overall ageing process."

An unlikely spur for research into the genetic causes of ageing has come from an obscure worm known as *C. elegans*. The genetic blueprint, or genome, of this 1mm-long worm is still being unravelled, but researchers have already found six genes which seem to affect ageing. "Mutating these genes increases the lifespan by up to four times," says Dr Gordon Lithgow, a colleague of Professor Kirkwood's at Manchester University.

However, even in a biological system as simple as this worm, which normally lives for about 20 days, the effects of these genes are complex. Dr Lithgow explains: "Two of those genes act in a very odd way. Changing one on its own can double lifespan, and changing the other on its own has no effect whatsoever. But mutating both makes the worms live four times longer than expected."

Dr Lithgow was surprised but not bowled over. "If it were a tenfold difference, then I would be impressed."

The unexpected twist is that mutating a gene knocks it out of action, or at least damages its ability to do whatever it is supposed to do. This implies that the six genes (researchers suspect there are others) connected with extending the worm's lifespan are all suppressors of some sort. The genetically changed worms were found to be more resistant to stressful conditions, such as hot environments and ultraviolet radiation. This could be the key.

Could human beings possess similar "negative" genes which could be put out of action? "Similar genes do exist in humans but will not do the same thing when mutated," says Dr Lithgow, who adds that human beings possess ten times the DNA of this worm and are therefore much more complex. The Manchester researchers do, however, think that the worm research has given them an important clue.

Dr Lithgow points out that the seemingly beneficial mutations are not without side-effects: "Changing one of the genes renders the worm incapable of producing sperm, so although it can live longer it cannot reproduce."

This is a neat illustration of Professor Kirkwood's theory of human ageing, which is based on evolution. Darwin's theory of evolution is, famously, about the survival of the fittest. Professor Kirkwood has worked out that reaching maximum "fitness" requires a certain investment of energy in repairing damaged cells as they are produced. But our genes must survive, which means we must breed. Therefore we cannot waste too much energy on elaborate biological defences because we must preserve some to reach adulthood and start reproducing.

But this trade-off between living and breeding — seen in the spermless worm — means that immortality goes against the Darwinian theory of evolution. The only way we can achieve immortality is through our genes, and Professor Kirkwood suggests we are sacrificed in order that our genes can continue.

This theory seems promising because scientific evidence appears to fit many of its predictions. Healthy genes are more important than a healthy body, and long-lived organisms, such as human beings and primates, have better cell maintenance systems than short-lived ones.

To test his theory, Professor Kirkwood is concentrating on identifying the genes which underlie the maintenance and repair of the body's cells, particularly in the production of proteins.

"Proteins get damaged in the normal chemistry of living, by free radicals and incorrect processing in the body," he says. Proteins also need to be folded into shape, and this biological origami is not always flawless.

Another source of protein damage comes as our cells continually renew themselves by dividing. Each new cell contains a photocopy of the individual's genetic code, which holds the instructions for the manufacture of the proteins. In the average human being, 100 billion cells (equivalent to about two-thousandths of the total number of cells in the body) divide each day, so there is potential for this replication to go awry.

Although most problems are rectified, a few will slip through the net and become permanent mutations. Professor Kirkwood thinks that finding out why some faults are not repaired — and then patching them up — might be the key to adding an extra decade or two to human life.

ANJANA AHUJA

Scientists discover a test for ageing

WHY IS IT that some of us age quickly, showing early signs of physical decline, while others stay young longer? Scientists think they may have found a test for ageing that will show who will grow old quickly by measuring the level of a chemical, glutathione, in the blood, *Jeremy Laurance writes.*

Glutathione is known to protect the body against toxins that have destructive effects on the cells. Correcting a deficiency of the *chemical in mosquitoes* increases their lifespan by 40 per cent.

Research has shown that glutathione levels decline with age but are highest in the over-80s, suggesting that high levels are associated with long life. A US study showed that people *with the highest levels of* glutathione had lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, were less likely to be overweight and rated themselves as healthier. Those with chronic conditions *such as heart disease*, arthritis and diabetes had lower levels.

Scientists believe that glutathione reserves may become depleted in people who expose themselves to *noxious substances such as* tobacco smoke or a high-fat diet, *reducing their capacity* to fight disease. So identifying those who will age fastest could help them to take evasive action.

SCOPE



Low weight, a poor diet and cigarettes in pregnancy may lead to a baby with diabetes and heart disease in later life

Big babies have a longer life

PREGNANCY PRECAUTION

JACK, a patient of mine, is only 49, but he already has high blood pressure, diabetes and coronary heart disease. Unusually, none of the well-known risk factors for these conditions applies to him. He follows an exemplary diet — low in calories, salt and saturated fats, and high in vitamins and fibre. He has never smoked. Until his angina was diagnosed he took a brisk three-mile walk every day. His parents both lived to 84. He is not from an ethnic group with a predisposition to diabetes or heart disease (such as South Asians).

"What have I done wrong?" Jack asked me the other day.

The explanation probably lies in Jack's early childhood, in the months before he was born, and even, some experts now think, in the weeks before he was conceived. Jack was a victory baby, born in a northern industrial town just after the end of the Second World War, into a family of three children.

Jack was not a premature baby, but he weighed only 5lb at birth. At one year, he was still being taken to the clinic to be weighed every week because he had gained so little. But after he turned ten, he began to grow tubby. He is now a rather Pickwickian figure — short in stature, round in face and full in girth.

Several characteristics of Jack's mother (thin build, low weight gain during pregnancy, anaemia, repetitive and poor-quality diet, and smoking), of Jack himself (low birth weight after adjusting for prematurity, poor weight gain in the first year of life, and bottle feeding), and of the overall family environment in his early childhood (cramped, damp housing, and several closely spaced siblings), are now known to be associated with an increased risk of three of the West's major killers: high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease.

WHAT, if anything, can today's mothers do to ensure that the odds of cardiovascular disease are not loaded against their sons and daughters even before they have entered the world?

First and foremost, they should give up smoking and persuade their partner to do so too, since both active and passive smoking by the mother will reduce the weight of the baby. It is known that big babies have a longer life. Secondly, they should keep their alcohol intake to below one drink a day — even (especially) in the early days when they are not sure whether they are pregnant or not.

Thirdly, they should ensure that they do not embark upon a pregnancy if they are underweight. Blood pressure in children (which correlates with blood pressure and heart disease risk in adults) has been shown to be inversely related to the mother's skinfold thickness (a measure of body fat) in the early weeks of pregnancy.

Pregnant women need to pay careful attention to the quality of their diet. Research in this country has shown that the diet of women from poor backgrounds who give birth to small babies is adequate in calories, but is relatively lacking in vitamins A, B-complex and C, as well as in protein, folic acid, iron and calcium.

DR TRISHA GREENHALGH

How love, security and a stress-free day keep the years at bay

RONALD GRANT



Age is no barrier to energy: Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire in *Funny Face*

THE SECRETS OF THE SUPERYOUNG

They have a lively sex life and a loving relationship with a much younger partner. They take plenty of gentle exercise, have lots of hobbies, are more likely to be vegetarians and refuse to suffer stress. These are the "superyoung", a group of paragons who, as if they were not irritating enough already, also look and feel years younger than their actual age.

This group of bright-eyed, smooth-skinned, bushy-haired and hyper-energetic people have, for the past eight years, been the subject of a study by Dr David Weeks, a clinical neuropsychologist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Dr Weeks has studied the lifestyles of 3,500 people aged between 20 and 101, who contacted him after he advertised in the media for subjects who looked considerably younger than their age. They sent in photographs which were judged by an independent panel, who agreed that these people looked, on average, 12 to 14 years younger than their actual age.

The aim of the study is to look at the connection between age and ill-health and to discover whether the ageing process is based on environmental or hereditary factors.

So far, Dr Weeks has discovered five or six factors that the superyoung have in common. Sadly, however, none of the recipes for youthfulness can be had on prescription. Eternal youth, it seems, is genetically programmed.

What is more, youth tends to be a bonus granted to those who are already happy and fulfilled. "These people tend to have a vigorous and robust sex life," he says. "Most make love more than twice a week. But the quantity isn't as important as the quality of the relationship. These people empathise with their partners and really trust them."

But which came first, the youthful looks or the happy relationships? According to Dr Weeks, the relationships. "These give them a great sense of security and act as a buffer to any stressful problems they have had in their lives."

Avoiding stress, it seems, is a major factor for aspiring Dorian Greys. "Our study of women in their forties showed just how sensitive people can be to chronic stress. Women who were suffering from anxiety began to look older in a matter of months. But if they were able to solve their problem, they soon looked younger." The superyoung are particularly adept at stress avoidance. "They devised various schemes for avoiding what they called the wrong kind of stress, kinds that could be very easily converted into anger. For instance, if they were working with someone who made them feel hostile, then they tried to avoid them, rather than confront them."

All these people tend to be hearty types with a variety of hobbies and enthusiasms. "They had a degree of curiosity and a fairly good sense of fun and humour," says Dr Weeks, who has also written a study of eccentrics. He discovered that people who refused to violate their ideals and conform were healthier and happier than those who cared about other people's opinions.

There are some things, however, that the determinedly misanthropic can do to keep up with this smug bunch. The superyoung, Dr Weeks says, keep out of the sun, don't smoke, eat a well-balanced diet (they are slightly more likely to be vegetarians than the average) and, most importantly, take exercise.

"This doesn't have to be very vigorous," Dr Weeks says. "We are not talking about Jane Fonda workouts but something equivalent to three 20-minute brisk walks a week. Most of these people began their physical activity in their late teens or early twenties, quite often by chance, because, for example, they found themselves living in a rural area without transport and so walked more frequently." People who exercised obsessively shared more traits with workaholics who, according to Dr Weeks, never look younger than they are.

"None of the women used a special moisturiser, although a few said they used plain olive oil." Dr Weeks says. Many women had received hormone replacement therapy and raved about the benefits. "The women we spoke to were almost unanimous in singing its praises."

To some, the list will be undoubtedly disappointing. As Oscar Wilde said: "To win back my youth ... there is nothing I wouldn't do — except take exercise, get up early, or be a useful member of the community."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

HEALTH OFFER

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Obesity gene ☐ Noisy planet ☐ Crop protector

Fighting the flab



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

THE BATTLE of the bulge has entered a new and possibly decisive phase with the news, in the journal *Cell*, that scientists at Millennium Pharmaceuticals and Hoffman-La Roche have cloned a gene that could be responsible for obesity.

A year ago, scientists at Rockefeller University identified the gene, known as *ob*, in an obese strain of mice, and the hormone it is responsible for producing, called leptin. The latter circulates in the bloodstream and carries information to the brain about the body's fat levels. Mice without leptin do not receive the signal, and so go on eating until they are twice the size of ordinary mice.

The problem is that obese human beings, rather than being short of leptin, appear to have too much of it, but still eat more than they need. So increasing leptin levels in such people by injecting the hormone is unlikely to have any effect.

Attention, therefore, switched to other possible reasons why the message wasn't getting through. For any chemical messenger to deliver its signal it must lock on to an appropriate receptor on the surface of the cells, like a plug fitting into a socket. Perhaps it was not leptin, but the leptin receptor, that was absent in obese people?

For that, another obese mouse provided the model. This is a breed called *db* because it is prone to a form of diabetes and also gets very fat. In the *Cell* paper, Dr Louis Tartaglia and colleagues report that they have taken material from a region of the brain called the choroid plexus in these mice and found that it binds with leptin.

They then screened a series of gene products from this part of the brain with leptin to identify the gene responsible for producing the receptor. They found, interestingly, that it lies on the same chromosome as the *ob* gene and appears to be remarkably close to it.

The implication is that the two are the same, which would mean that *db* mice are fat, and perhaps diabetic too, because they lack the leptin receptor. Millennium has reason to hope that the same will apply to obese people, and to who suffer the type of diabetes known as type II or age-onset.

The company's chief executive officer, Mark Levin, says that Millennium is now working with Roche to develop orally active drugs to treat obesity caused by leptin resistance. "We believe this type of product should have a wider range of use than leptin-based drugs."

But this is unlikely to be the last word on the genetics of obesity. It is probable that the pathway used by leptin to deliver its signal has other key elements which may be lacking in some individuals. And nobody has yet shown that leptin resistance is the real reason for obesity in human beings.

Satellite listens in to life on Earth

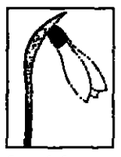


THERE IS intelligent life on Earth, or enough evidence of it, to convince aliens, the US space agency Nasa has concluded. A year ago Nasa launched a satellite called Wind to monitor solar wind, a stream of charged particles emitted by the Sun. However, one of the detectors on board is sensitive to shortwave bands and regularly picked up radio signals from Earth, including a burst that could be attributed to the BBC.

But Michael Kaiser, of the Nasa-Goddard Space Flight Centre, told *Sky and Telescope* magazine that the satellite could pick up these signals only if it were well within the solar system. So the notion that the first an alien would hear of us would be the cricket scores on the World Service is dashed.

The loudest man-made signals, which carry many light years into interstellar space, are not benign radio broadcasts, but the output of powerful phased-array radars designed to detect ballistic missiles. Any alien intelligent enough to identify those would get a good idea of what kind of creature inhabits the Earth.

Snowdrop protein repels aphid attack



THE SNOWDROP packs a punch that will soon be used to protect commercial crops against aphids.

Two Belgian scientists, Wily Peumans and Els Van Damme, from the Catholic University of Leuven, have found that snowdrops produce a protein that makes them very unattractive to a range of sap-sucking insects.

The two isolated the gene responsible, which is now being introduced into other plants by the Cambridge-based company, Axis Genetics. Potatoes given the gene have proved resistant to the potato glasshouse aphid. The US Department of Agriculture now plans to try it against an aphid which attacks wheat.

The beauty of the gene is that it does not produce a poison, to which the aphids might quickly become immune, but a protein that appears to work by repelling them. This, Axis hopes, will make the development of resistance less likely.

The most noticeable effect was that aphids on the genetically engineered plants produced far fewer young.



SIMON WALKER

"Rambo" the sheep with Dr Kim Tan, who believes that producing monoclonal antibodies from sheep promises more effective treatments

Flocking to the rescue

A flock of sheep is helping to target anti-cancer drugs, as **Nigel Hawkes** discovers

ON A FARM in Surrey, a small flock of sheep is grazing to a purpose. The animals are being grown not for their meat or their wool, but for the antibodies circulating in their bloodstreams. One day these antibodies may be used to target human cancers.

Twenty years ago, in one of the Nobel prizewinning breakthroughs of the biotechnology revolution, César Milstein and Georges Köhler, working at Cambridge, found a way of producing large quantities of antibodies, the exquisitely designed proteins that lead the fight against alien invaders in the human body.

They found that they could manufacture antibodies in useful amounts by creating a hybrid between the cells that make them and the cells of tumours. This married the specificity of the antibodies — each designed to deal with a particular invader, or antigen — to the immortality of the cancer cells, which go on dividing for ever. Monoclonal antibodies, so called because they derive from a single antibody cell, had been born.

They seemed to promise huge possibilities in fighting disease. If the body's own defences could be reinforced by multiplying its frontline troops, surely every disease could be defeated? Alas, experience has taught otherwise.

"The difficulties were underestimated, the time-line was unrealistic and the claims were overstated," admitted Dr Lloyd Old, a leading American specialist, at a recent conference which focused on the use of antibody therapies against cancer.

"It really hasn't come good," concedes Dr Kim Tan, the scientist behind the sheep safely grazing down in Surrey. "But now there is a growing consensus that things are getting better."

The Department of Trade and Industry shares the view and has backed Dr Tan's company, KS Biomedix, with a research grant. And a leading cancer researcher, Professor Adrian Harris of Oxford University, has recently joined the company to act as a scientific adviser.

The renewed optimism has also led to the opening of a centre for the manufacture of monoclonals at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. The Therapeutic Antibody Centre, which is part of the university, is the result of an agreement struck between the Medical Research Council and the pharmaceutical company LeukoSite Inc. Its aim is to test a variety of antibodies in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and other diseases caused by the faults in the immune system.

antibodies would be those that recognise and bind to specific proteins that are found on the surface of cancers, but nowhere else.

Ingenious as it is, this strategy has also had limited success. The news is not all negative: an antibody that recognises a cell-surface protein in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a common cancer, has been used with some success to ferry atoms of radioactive iodiné-131 to the tumours.

Dr Oliver Press, of the University of Washington in Seattle, has reported that in 19 patients for whom conventional drugs had failed, the "magic bullet" treatment had removed all sign of the disease in 16.

Unfortunately, the proteins towards which the antibodies make a beeline are not always found only on the cancers. Sometimes they are on normal cells, sometimes they may be released and floating free. This means that the antibody-directed drugs can cause a lot of collateral damage.

Professor Kenneth Bagshawe, of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School in London, came up with an even more ingenious strategy. Instead of delivering a drug to the cancer, Professor Bagshawe's ADEPT system delivers an enzyme. (ADEPT stands for antibody-directed enzyme pro-drug therapy.)

The idea is to carry the enzyme to the tumour, and use the antibody to bind it to the target protein. Then, a couple of days later, a harmless "pro-drug" is injected into the patient. The enzyme breaks down the pro-drug to create an active drug, but only at the site where the enzyme is bound. This, argued Professor Bagshawe, should be more precise in its lethal effects, killing only the cancer cells and not healthy ones.

Trials in animal models have shown encouraging results, and the drug company Zeneca is now developing the technique for the treatment of colon cancer. But Dr Tan argues that the technique is likely to be effective only if the enzyme binds strongly to the tumour cells.

This is where the sheep come in. "The larger the animal, the stronger the binding of the antibodies," he says.

> 'The idea is to carry the enzyme to the tumour'

ability to produce antibodies.

Since the mouse is the standard laboratory animal, mouse antibodies have been the normal product. But mouse antibodies are foreign matter when injected into human patients and provoke their own immune response. This means that repeated injections are usually impossible, and that any treatment based on mouse antibodies must be effective within a few treatments.

Trials also quickly showed that with cancer at least, antibodies on their own were not enough to kill off the tumour. To improve the hit-rate, an ingenious strategy was adopted. The antibody was linked to a more conventional cancer-killing drug, and merely used as a guide-dog, carrying the drug directly to the tumour. In this case, the

Producing monoclonal antibodies from sheep rather than mice can increase binding a thousandfold, and should produce a much more effective treatment.

The actual production process does no harm to the animals. They are injected with the cancer proteins, and their white blood cells make the antibodies. A sample of blood from the sheep then provides the basic material for producing the monoclonal antibodies, in exactly the same way as from mice. It sounds simple, but it has taken eight years of work to get this far, and there is still some way to go before the sheep monoclonals can be tried in therapy.

There is, though, a new optimism. Dr Press says that many in the field feel apologetic that it has not delivered so far. "But I always thought that it would take a long time to satisfy the expectations raised in the popular press, so I was neither surprised nor disappointed. I think we're making slow, steady progress."

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Magnus Linklater recalls the dreadful moment he was forced to pull the plug on an old family friend's life-support system



The day my computer died

There has been a death in the family this week. As so often in these matters, it has been a slow and painful one. But in this case there has been an extra dimension to the grief: the departed one has taken valuable secrets to the grave, information which may never now be recovered. Our dearly beloved computer, its origins betrayed by the copyright sign Microsoft 1987, has gone to the great database in the sky.

The signs came early on. Starting up each morning was an increasing struggle. The terrible warning sign "Disc Boot Failure" appeared ever more frequently on the screen, followed by wheezing sounds from somewhere inside the frame as we tried desperately to encourage it to face another day. A gentle touch to the starter switch produced the best results, but we found it helpful to leave it for ten minutes or so while it gathered its strength to try again.

We called in a computer medic who looked it over, somewhat unsympathetically we thought. He suggested that it was malingering. What it really needed, he said, was a sharp blow to the side of the monitor, and he gave it one. So shocked was the machine that it did, indeed, spring into action and proceeded to boot up, download and print out with a speed and accuracy it hadn't managed in weeks. But later it was clearly drained by the activity, and it never again responded in quite the same way.

Finally the day came when the medic took us on one side and suggested that the time had come to put it to rest and replace it with a brand-new machine. He was clearly no great believer in the need for grief-counselling and seemed to us rather more enthusiastic about extolling the virtues of the new MS-Dos 6.22 model with Windows and increased-megabyte-capacity than he was in easing the departure of our friend and companion. But he did stress that it would be kinder all round if we accepted the inevitable. We held a quiet family conference and agreed it was for the best.

There is a rather harrowing ritual involved in disposing of a terminally sick computer. One has to extract any remaining files contained on its hard disk before handing it over to the dealers to do what they have to do. I decided that this should be carried out at the shop rather than subject the family to the pain of actually seeing it happen. I therefore unplugged it for the last time, loaded it into the back of the car and drove quickly away without telling anyone.

I am not, I confess, very brave about these things. I simply left it with them, told them to do whatever was necessary, and then let me know the result. The telephone call, when it came, was worse than I could possibly have imagined. They had opened up the outer casing, but had found that the hard disk was so badly corrupted that they couldn't extract the files remaining on it. The machine was being kept alive only by some electronic life-support system. I was shocked to the core. I heard myself saying: "I demand a second opinion." Then: "Don't move, I'm coming round."

I leapt into the car and raced to the shop. The sight I saw was too awful for words. There, wired up to a series of other machines, its screen barely flickering, was my computer. I scarcely recognised it. The outer casing had been removed and its insides were revealed: a row of electrodes, wafers and chips, the bits you don't ever want to know about.

"Was there anything important on it?" said the computer man. "Important?" I yelped. Only every single letter I had typed and stored over the past five years, a veritable cornucopia of correspondence, a time capsule of communication. If I lost that I lost half a decade of my most intimate life. True, there were also some of the most boring letters ever written, but there were others which, well . . . I asked if I could at least read some of the filenames. Just seeing them brought tears to the eyes.

I leant over the familiar keyboard and whispered some encouraging words. Then I moved the cursor onto the top file and pressed Enter. For a moment I thought I heard an answering groan, then the screen spluttered out: Error reading Drive C. Abort? Retry? Ignore?

It was a terrible choice for anyone to make, worse if you were consigning part of yourself to limbo. I pressed Retry, but I knew in my heart it was no good. The computer man murmured something about a London specialist with a brand-new treatment. Expensive of course, but possibly worth a try. I shook my head sadly. It would just prolong the agony.

We both knew what had to be done. He raised a final questioning eyebrow and I nodded. Then he switched it off.

Women, my clothes and sex...

The top Paris designer Agnès b. talks to **Kate Muir** about free love, smoking and a lifetime of rebellion

ALASTAIR MILLER



A fashion rebel at ease: Agnès b. on the white sofa of her minimalist loft-workshop in Paris. Directness and simplicity have become her motto, in life as much as in design

THERE was little indication in 1941, when Agnès b. was born Agnès Troublé into a respectable Roman Catholic family in occupied France, that she would grow up to run a £70 million international clothing empire, have five children by three different fathers, and develop a lasting penchant for black leather jeans.

The appropriately-named Troublés were upstanding citizens of the town of Versailles, until the young Agnès veered spectacularly off course. At 17, she fell in love with a fellow student, Christian Bourgois, and married him — "you had to in those days". By 18, she was pregnant, and at 19 gave birth to twins. By 20 she was divorced — a single working mother, who started to design clothes to survive.

All this could not have pleased Mme Troublé, a strict matriarch from a military family, who had been educated at the Légion d'Honneur school for children of servicemen, and kept a similar atmosphere at home. Her four children were always perfectly turned out. Agnès in her pretty little dresses with crisply ironed collars. The seeds for designer rebellion were sown very early on.

"We were a classic bourgeois family, constrained, and my life now is so different from that," says the fully-grown Agnès b., curled with a cigarette on the white sofa of her minimalist loft-workshop. "My life is open, but in my family people were hiding parts of their lives, their private thoughts. They were always maintaining this façade of decency. I prefer to live a real life, and if I change husbands . . . well, fine, I change husbands," she shrugs, laughing.

Directness and simplicity became her motto, in life as much as design. By the time Agnès b. was 34, she had shed not only her respectability and her past, but also both her surnames. She opened her first shop in Paris, filled it with her own designs, and had the sense to know that Agnès Troublé was not the most promising title. She considered her married name of Bourgois, but her former husband, an editor, "had a certain notoriety in the publishing world which seemed incompatible with my work as a designer". So she just kept the b. for her brand name, "lower case, because it suits me better".

The Agnès b. company celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year, with 80 shops around the world, four in Britain. The secret of Agnès b. designs is that they pass almost unrecognised: usually black or grey, simple and perfectly cut. To those in the know, they carry a discreet signal. "My clothes are changed by the person who wears them, not vice versa," says the designer, herself in her near-ubiquitous leather jeans and one of her little cropped cardigans.



To those who are in the know, wearing the Agnès b. label carries a discreet signal

The Agnès b. cardigan, made in sweatshirt material with a row of pearl press-studs, has become a classic, changing only slightly every year. It is not cheap at about £50, but good value when hours of wear per penny are considered. More than two million Agnès b. cardigans have been sold, and most still remain washable, eternal favourites in wardrobes worldwide. The idea for the row of pearl studs came from the priests' cassocks which she remembered from her Versailles childhood, but her subverted version is worn more unbuttoned.

Those who still cannot visualise the Agnès b. style need only think back to the Quentin Tarantino film *Pulp Fiction*. As Uma Thurman dances with John Travolta, there is a fine opportunity to examine her Agnès b. fitted white shirt with enormous cuffs, soft black trousers cut above the ankle, and Travolta's long-line black jacket with a leather collar. Understated, and incredibly cool.

Agnès b. never does any marketing, and shuns all advertising. Neither has been necessary, since she relies entirely on instinct. She will often spend a couple of hours in front of the mirror trying on her test designs — are the shoulders too tight? Does she want bigger pockets? "I like pockets," she says, fiddling with some on a little black dress. "Where else do you put your hands?"

This understanding that the right clothes can bring comfort in embarrassing or frightening situations is exactly why women are prepared to pay for an Agnès b. She is aware of the subtle psychology of dressing: "Women like to change character day by day through what they wear, to play at being different people."

Besides, the typical customer is rarely a vulgar or obvious sort. Her London shops are in the Portobello Road, Hampstead, Covent Garden and South Kensington, which says precisely who her clientele are.

That is not to say that understatement is unattractive. "Any clothes can be sexy, depending on the woman who wears them. I don't like really tough, sexy clothes because there is too much obvious intention."

In 1975, when Agnès b. decided to set up shop, it was in reaction to the fashion-victim ethos of that time (with flares and polyester, an acknowledged low point in style). "I had no plan at all, but I used to work for someone else, designing new stuff every season, and I thought we needed easier, simpler clothes that did not have to change constantly. I hate the spectacle of fashion — I wanted to do something more serious."

She went into business with her second husband and father of two more children, Jean-René .de Fleurieu. She had all the clothes made in basic white and dyed the rest personally in the shop.

Customers could buy direct off the clothes-line. "We loved it. It was a home from home, and all our friends hung out there."

She tries to keep her new headquarters, a loft building in the up-and-coming République area, in the same spirit. Employees and visitors can check out the latest CDs, from Smashing Pumpkins to French rap and ragga, at a console in the enormous pillared hall. There is a little café-bar with Evian bottles on it, walls of canvases by New York graffiti artists. Agnès b. herself does not even have a desk. She floats around the workshops. "I hate the corporate world, and I do not want to be known as a businesswoman. I'm a clothes designer." Her son Etienne, now in his thirties, deals with the business side.

The idea of her son being a company director jolts you into remembering that this fresh-faced, petite blonde is a 54-year-old mother-of-five and grandmother-of-four. Children never interfered with her career, she says, because they were there from the beginning, a pleasant habit she could not give up. "I've always had children — I had the twins when I was 19, but before that I used to babysit. Children can teach you so much. I get on very well with them." Her youngest daughter is just 12.

She relied on nannies and pliant cleaning ladies, and believes firmly in quality time. "People always ask me how I do it, but if I was a cashier at the Monoprix, I'd work the same hours, and no one asks them. I'm just lucky to be my own boss."

She designs every item herself, from men's to women's to children's. There is no design team. "I have no problem about creation — I do it like playing, very quickly."

Aside from regular forays into a green pack of cigarettes, there are no signs that the burden of multinational business is dragging on Agnès b. She is indeed playful. Of course, male artists and writers have always maintained that a regular turnover of spouses and lovers keeps ideas fresh. Is it the same for her?

"I have lived with the same photographer for nine years," she parries. "But I hate resignation to arrangements, and if something changes, it changes. I believe each day is a gift and should be lived to the full."

There is still something of the Sixties flower child about her. Compared with most French interviewees, she is happy to talk about her *vie privée* in a general way, and gives the impression that having three fathers for her children (and who knows how many other relationships) is a perfectly normal progression. Her dedication to free love and smoking has not wavered, and it seems that part of her has never grown up. Her enthusiasm can be almost childlike: "Oh yes, I still adore the Rolling Stones and Iggy Pop, but I also like Bono and U2." There is no doubt that she is often the only grandmother attending some of Paris's rock concerts.

Life is not all hedonism. Although she is happy to make a profit, Agnès b. sees no reason why her shops cannot also be used for charity. She raised thousands of pounds with her "Hearts for Sarajevo" campaign in France, and ran similar campaigns for the homeless in New York and Britain. At the moment, there are exquisitely-wrapped condoms in baskets at the checkouts. "I suppose I am still a Catholic in the sense that I belong to the Left and believe we should help other people."

Indeed, her scruples are one reason why her clothes are expensive — they are all made in France. "I want to know what's happening to my clothes. I don't want children to make my clothes. I don't want badly paid people to make my clothes."

The cost is most astounding in her children's section — £30 for the famous cardigan for a one-year-old. Can she justify that? "Well, to get full use you either have to hand the clothes on to friends or . . ." here she smiles wickedly, "have five children."

One other criticism — voiced by many British women with strapping shoulders and sturdy, hockey-bred legs — is that Agnès b.'s petite French sizes of 1, 2 and 3 are sometimes too confining. Yet the small sizes are good business — it is always the size 3 that is left in the sale. "I noticed that a lot of women were shopping in the men's section, so I wanted to stop that and do more feminine clothes for larger women."

Her ethos is perfectly summed up by the words on a plain white (and no doubt very expensive) T-shirt she has just designed: "b. yourself".

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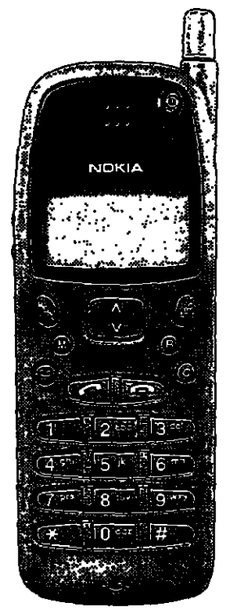
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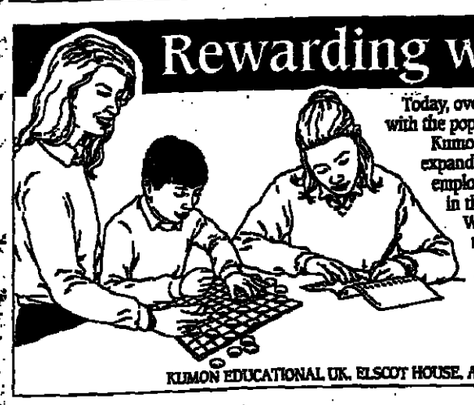
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مكتبة من الأصل

Matthew Parris



■ Keep the additives and take out the ingredients: ill-health foods are on their way

What do they do with all the caffeine they take out of decaffeinated coffee? A year ago, this column speculated on the existence of a mysterious caffeine hill among the butter mountains and wine lakes of Europe. Alongside the growing range of products with the naughty things taken out, where (we ask?) are the products with the naughty things enhanced? How about a caffeine-reinforced cola? I even devised what was, I thought, an original name for it: "Jolt".

It exists! A reader sent me a bottle. Or rather sent me a bottle from America. On Friday, I was recounting the tale to a random group of fellow-passengers on the P&O ferry from Bilbao to Portsmouth, all excellent people: an Anglo-Spanish bongo-drum player with a passion for flamenco, a Midlands couple who educate all their children at home in North Wales, and the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Hove. One does not expect less on the better class of ferry.

The idea appealed. We discussed the brand-imaging success in Britain of Death Cigarettes. Despite warnings that gales were "imminent", the sea was calm and the sky was blue, so in a mood of cheerful disregard for all official wisdom, we whiled away the morning developing a proposed product range for a new concept of supermarket chain, bearing the alternative working names of Die-Rite or Kwik-Die.

We are resolved (Liberal candidates dissenting) that every item in the Die-Rite range will bear the logo of a tearful rabbit, guaranteeing that the product has been tested on animals. Labels on fur garments will indicate that a real animal has been trapped to provide the pelt. In all aerosol sprays, CFCs will be not only present, but where possible enhanced. Outside the larger stores will be service stations selling petrol-free lead.

But it is on the food shelves that Kwik-Die's marketing strategy is most richly displayed. The range of offal-enhanced beef sausages will be impressive, the pâté *Provençal à la vache folle* (with a picture of a dancing cow), a particular speciality. Alongside the fat-boosted, double-fat and "guaranteed free of polyunsaturates" (Fat-u-Like) products will be a selection of coffee, tea and baking fatteners (FatFast). Just sprinkle the fattener onto your monosodium glutamate (with all the chow mein removed) and watch those rolls of fat grow!

Scientists need further time to develop a range of vitamin-C-free oranges and juices (with added sugar), and the Special E breakfast cereal, which contains no cereal at all, only E numbers and sugar. The technology exists for producing fibre-free vegetables, and I believe it is already possible to remove the iron from spinach. All will be on sale alongside a range of breads in which the whiteners will positively dazzle, and polished rice (brand name: Beri-Beri) which will boast that no husk ever passes the inspection team and that the product is guaranteed free of even trace elements of vitamin B.

The calcium-depleted milk will be special favourite with kiddies. For adolescents there will be range of products marked with a tick beside the imprint Acne, to indicate that they give you spots. There will be no alcohol-free beers or wines, but wine-free alcohol and beer from which the barley and hops have been removed will be on sale, as will anis drinks which are free of that horrible liquorice taste, and dark rum without the disgusting flavour of toffee.

My team is pleased with the cosmetics and drugs counter. A tearful rabbit will be displayed on packets of seasickness pills which really do make you seasick, on flea-friendly collars for cats and on a variety of histamine-enhanced airsprays and bathroom fresheners from the Death-by-Pollen collection. And skin-hardening creams in the HorniHand range will vie with roll-on perspirants from the House of Locker-Room and Salon Horse.

> For adolescents there will be a range of products guaranteed to produce spots

Body-hair reinforcers in the Bikini range will be based on those spray-on Father Christmas beards, but in a more imaginative colour range than white. For a quick tan, my Factor Minus 15 suncream will actually attract ultraviolet rays. The washing-up liquid which promises not to put an unnatural shine on your plates and the shampoo with its own flecks of simulated dandruff should attract the rough-and-ready kind of customer, as should our two new realistic mouth sprays, trade name Food Breath and Parrot's Cage, for wimps who don't want their wives to know they have been sucking mints.

Besides the product-line itself, my team and I have come up with a handful of names for which the product has yet to be devised. I am still looking for foods, creams or sprays to bear the names Daunt, Cringe and Dishevel.

But enough. Portsmouth harbour approaches. It's been a great cruise from Spain, but too relaxing. Is there anywhere you can buy stress-inducing cassette tapes? Not yet. But there soon will be.

This article has been tested on animals. I read it to the cat.

John Major's Frost interview showed a man ill at ease with himself and unsure of his policies

Tactics aren't enough to run the country

David Frost is an excellent television interviewer because he allows the people he is questioning to make the best case for themselves that they can. He puts the right questions, but does so in a polite and friendly way. If people have good answers they are not obscured by aggressive interruptions. Often his technique draws out the people he is talking to, so one learns more than one would get from a more forceful cross-examination.

This makes the contrast between the Prime Minister's Frost interview this January and the one last January all the more revealing. Last year, John Major was in excellent form, relaxed, self-confident and unusually close to being definite on policy. It was one of his best interviews since the general election, probably his most confident since Britain was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism, more than two years earlier. John Major intended to signal that the fight-back had begun; he took a much tougher line on Europe, which heartened those who felt that his European policy had previously been too soft. One began to feel that one knew where he stood; but in January 1996, one had to acknowledge that one did not.

Yesterday saw the return of the old John Major. Regarding Europe, he seemed to have gone back to all his old indecisive attitudes. He has not decided whether a single currency would be a good thing or a bad thing; he is sure that it would be important; he is more than doubtful whether it could be achieved by 1999; he thinks the onus of proof should be on those who advocate it — but he still has an open mind, and is not even ready to say whether he would have a referendum if he ever did decide that Britain ought to join. Last year he seemed to be moving towards defining his European policy; this year he seemed to be moving back away from doing so.

His broader case for the Government was no more convincing. He claimed that it had seen Britain through a world recession which had been difficult for everyone — he did not mention that the economy turned round only after he had been forced to drop his whole exchange-rate policy. He said that the economy was now strong compared to the rest of Europe, which may be true. He said that the Labour Party had no policies, but did not seem to have many himself. He said that this year's legislation on broadcasting and education was very important, though he hardly explained why. He defended Michael Portillo, whom he has promoted through a series of posts, but thought it would be quite wrong for him to censor Michael Portillo's speeches.

There have been Prime Ministers like this before. Arthur Balfour's most famous book was called *In Defence of Philosophic Doubt*; Herbert Henry Asquith's most famous political saying was "Wait and see"; Stanley Baldwin fought, and lost, the 1929 election on the uninspiring slogan of "Safety first"; Harold Wilson said that "a week in politics is a long time". The results of such dithering have always been electorally disastrous in the end, although it has often taken a time for the disillusion to work its way through the system. Balfour's scepticism was followed in 1906 by the worst general election defeat the Conservatives have suffered in this century; Asquith's dilatoriness, which became more marked when he was a wartime Prime Minister, destroyed the Liberals forever as a party of power; the mere memory of Baldwin played a large part in the 1945 election, the second largest defeat the Conservatives have suffered this century. A couple of years after Harold Wilson had finished with it, the Labour Party went out of office for 17 years.

William Rees-Mogg

In none of these cases was the problem a lack of natural ability. Balfour was an intellectual who almost overawed the young Winston Churchill; Asquith was a highly intelligent lawyer; Baldwin was intuitive and literary; Wilson had been an academic whose talents were respected by all his contemporaries. Nor does John Major lack intellectual ability, though he is not as good a speaker as the other four. The problem lies in temperament and in the distaste for taking strategic decisions. In each case, these men behaved as though the best way to make a big decision were to leave it alone. I remember one of Baldwin's ministers, then an old man, expressing this doctrine: "What I always say is, when you don't know what to do, the best thing to do is — nothing." I have recently been studying the Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin, an event which decided the future of Ireland, and to some extent the future of the British Empire. Asquith was told the news when he got back to London from the Bank Holiday weekend; he commented: "Well, that's something," and went off to bed.

Why do these able Prime Ministers fail, and in a way that is so disastrous for their parties? In some cases, but not in John Major's, the fault has been sloth. Both Asquith and Baldwin were lazy men. In other cases, in Wilson's and probably in John Major's as well, the fault is an unduly tactical rather than strategic grasp of politics. Good chiefs of staff usually make bad commanders.

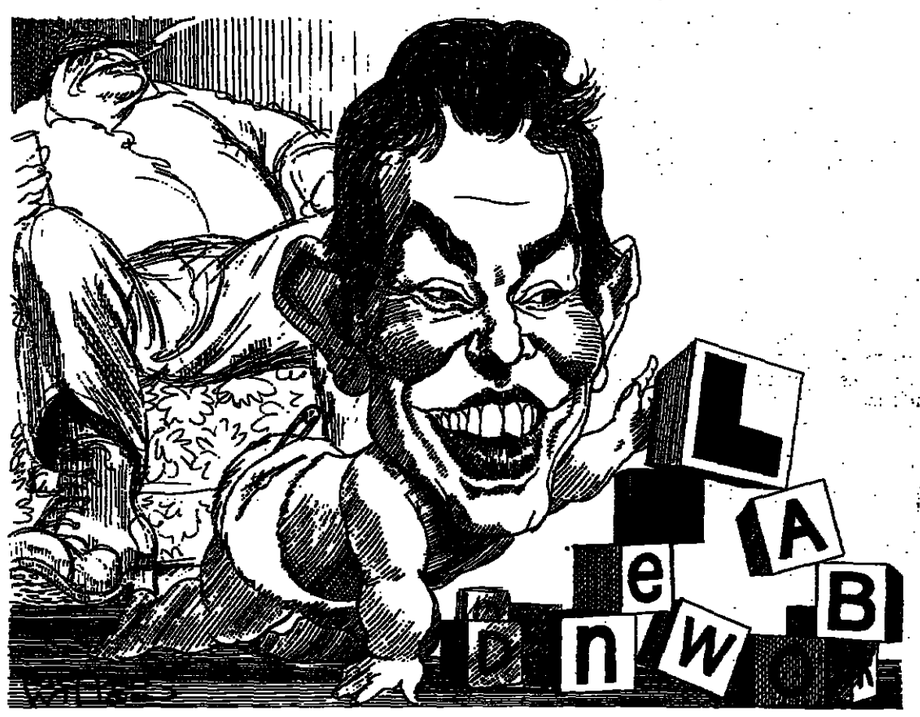
Francis Bacon observed that everyone has an Aristotelian or a Platonic mind, either analytical or synthetic. Aristotelians break down general statements into their particulars; Platonists build particulars into general statements. Inevitably, the analytical approach is detailed and tactical, whereas the Platonic approach deals in broad ideals and objectives. Balfour's scepticism, Asquith's sloth, Baldwin's caution, Wilson's cunning, Major's pragmatism have all tended to produce tactical reactions to events rather than the seizing of the strategic initiative. All five of these Prime Ministers have appealed strongly to contemporaries who themselves fell on the tactical and detailed side of this great divide.

Two and a half years ago, I wrote that John Major was too much the whip and too little the leader to be an effective Prime Minister. This view was much criticised at the time, and thought to be snobbish, heaven knows why. Leadership is not a question of class — Napoleon was no aristocrat. John Major is now exposed to a damaging contrast with Tony Blair, who has treated the Labour Party with a ruthlessness that Wilson never showed. This may or may not work out in the end. He too has problems over Europe. There is much more venom in old and in militant Labour than has yet been expressed. The new Labour Party has not, as John Major said to David Frost, produced its manifesto. But everyone can see the broad strategic thrust of Tony Blair's campaign. In the everlasting battle between tactics and strategy, Tony Blair has the strategic advantage.

The outlook for the Tories has now become a nightmare, in which defeat looks very probable, and catastrophic defeat more than possible. Half their present seats could be lost — it is no wonder that morale has collapsed. John Major is in many ways a good man — honest, intelligent, kindly. But he is not a good leader, because it is the job of a leader to decide. In terms of strategy he wasted 1995. One can only say to him what the old sergeant said to the flustered young officer whose incoherent orders were sending his men over the cliff: "Say something, if it's only 'goodbye'."

Why Blair needs more time

Labour may be ready for an election, but not to govern, says Peter Riddell



An early general election is not in Tony Blair's interests. It suits Labour for John Major's Government to be damaged and drifting, but not for it to sink, yet. And, as Mr Major showed in his robust performance on the Frost programme, he is not about to surrender the captaincy without a fight. Mr Blair knows not only that the election will probably be close, but also that his party is not yet ready for government — as Philip Gould, one of his key strategists, warned last spring in a famous leaked memo.

Mr Blair does not think that governments just lose elections. He believes that oppositions — and especially oppositions with the baggage of divisions and extremism that Labour carried over from the 1980s — positively have to win them. In that he differs from John Smith and his safety-first approach in 1992-94. Understandable pieties about a lost leader suddenly struck down have produced a pretence of continuity between the two, when the discontinuities are more striking. To convince voters that Labour has really changed, Mr Blair is creating a new party — something Mr Smith never contemplated, and would not have admitted even if he had.

Much has already been achieved, along the lines that Mr Gould discussed. Blairism has developed roots throughout the party, even if they are still delicate in some places. Labour's ideological foundations have been torn up and reconstructed; the formal role of trade unions has been reduced; and individual membership has soared by more than half, to well over 375,000. The main bastion of "old" Labour is the parliamentary party, where turnover is inevitably much slower. The balance should shift after the election, since Mr Blair's allies reckon, perhaps over-optimistically, that 90 per cent of the candidates so far picked to replace retiring MPs or in winnable seats back his approach. But many of these could be fair-weather friends, just as many zealous young Wilsonites elected in 1964 and 1966 soon turned on their leader. But more needs to be done to bed in these changes.

The public, however, is unsure about what Labour would do. Many voters remain unaware of the replacement of Clause Four, let alone Gordon Brown's "welfare-to-work" proposals to tackle unemployment. The focus groups — discussions among undecided and swing voters held almost weekly by Labour strategists — show that while people are disenchanted with the Tories, they have little knowledge of Labour's proposals. After addressing the CBI annual conference two months ago, Mr Blair was struck that his talk of a new Labour approach to industry was treated as a (welcome) revelation by many businessmen, even though it was largely a reworking of what he had been saying for the previous year. Hence, he will be repeating his core themes again and again.

Mr Blair's Tokyo speech on Friday was intended to trump the Tories' attempt to portray themselves as the only party able to make Britain the so-called "enterprise centre of Europe". He claims that Labour now accepts the broad thrust of the economic changes of the 1980s — tighter monetary and fiscal discipline, free markets, lower taxes and laws limiting trade unions — but that these are not enough. Governments have to do more to promote training and invest in infrastructure if Britain is to remain globally competitive, while ensuring that a minority is not permanently excluded.

There are obvious holes: notably, how to reconcile aspirations for improved public services with overall spending restraint and reform of the welfare state. Shadow spokesmen do not have the incentive to produce unpopular savings, while welfare reform is bound enrage some group which benefits from the current system. But breaking out of the culture and cost of welfare dependency is the big prize for a Blair government.

Other principal areas of vulnerability are Europe and constitutional change. Mr Blair and Robin Cook have skilfully balanced a positive approach to Britain's role in Europe with caution about specific moves to closer integration. But Mr Blair's advisers are anxious that after the Madrid summit the party's attitude towards a single currency — that "it all depends on the economic circumstances" — could be picked apart during a campaign in spring 1997, when a firm decision about which countries will participate will be needed just a year later. Mr Brown will be fleshing out Labour's approach to monetary union in the late spring, but a firm commitment is unlikely.

Labour has already promised far-reaching constitutional changes: a bill of rights, reform of the House of Lords, freedom of information and, above all, devolution. But all this could derail Labour's legislative programme unless potential pitfalls are addressed now. Anyone who has read Roy Jenkins's elegant *Gladstone* — and that includes Mr Blair — is bound to be struck by the similarity of the current arguments over devolution and the role of Scottish MPs at Westminster to those in the 1880s about Irish Home Rule, which were the occasion for, if not the cause of, Joseph Chamberlain's resignation from the Cabinet and the defeat of the Liberal Government. Scottish MPs are going to have to surrender some of their rights if they want a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh.

These unresolved questions are linked to the party's preparations for government: the formal contacts with senior civil servants which are about to start, supplementing the many informal links; the training sessions for largely inexperienced spokesmen; the debate about whether the machinery of Whitehall needs to be changed; and the working out of legislative and political priorities. Much more needs to be done in all these areas. If Labour came to office before the autumn — and perhaps even before next year — it would risk a repetition of the confusion and incoherence which so undermined Harold Wilson's Governments. Creating a new party takes time. Mr Blair should be in no hurry for office.

Back to back



Westminster Guildhall

THE LABOUR PARTY is looking for a suitable home for the London-wide local government authority that it plans to introduce as a replacement for the GLC. The frontrunner is said to be the former home of Middlesex County Council, the Guildhall in Westminster, an over-decorated building which sits opposite the House of Commons on Parliament Square.

The Victorian extravanganza — which is smothered in carved figures and curlicules — is currently used as a Crown Court, but it was the home of Middlesex County Council before the GLC came into being. Labour MPs accept that hope is receding of a compulsory purchase of County Hall, the former home of the GLC, which a Japanese company is transforming into a leisure complex and apartments — with all the haste of evolutionary change.

"The Guildhall on Parliament Square is one of the obvious sites," says a Labour MP. "But the City of London's Guildhall is another. I know that we are talking to a whole range of people about finding a suitable home."

Yet Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, says he has made no commitment with regard to the putative body's future home. "It is utterly news to me that the Guildhall is being considered. The body will have to go somewhere and I still wouldn't want to rule out County Hall."

● *It is tough on Michael Portillo, getting all the blame for the proposed sale of Admiralty Arch while he is stuck in Japan on Her Majesty's business. Since July 1994, the issue has been the responsibility of the Department of the Environment and therefore John Gummer's problem.*

Body & mind

MELVYN BRAGG displays his spiritual side on television for the first time next month, when he discusses religion as part of the BBC series *The Big Question*. He admits that as a teenager he had "literally scores and scores of out-of-body experiences". These were terrifying episodes, he explains, "where part of you leaves yourself and hovers above your body deciding whether to go."

Bragg says that he has only had another one or two of these experiences since adolescence, but he does feel the presence of his late father. Since his death a year ago, his father has visited him and spoken to him on many occasions. But Bragg *père* is a benign presence. His son says: "He doesn't appear in a spooky way. He doesn't suddenly materialise on a Wednesday morning at breakfast."

Twice blessed

AT A society wedding on Saturday, the new Mrs Alexander Finn made a short speech. She had been walking through Claridge's from her suite that morning to the hair salon, she told guests, when she spotted Cardinal Basil Hume having breakfast.

Wearing only her dressing-gown, she marched up to him and told him she considered the encounter a good omen. His Eminence promptly blessed her, as did the amused visiting Cardinal with whom he was breaking toast.

● *After the débâcle of the Government's traffic cone helpline, road contractors have obviously decided honesty is the better policy. An unusually candid sign spotted in East London reads: "Slow contractors at work".*

Slice of life

A THESPIAN tradition was honoured on Saturday night at the Theatre Royal in the West End of London, when the Baddeley cake celebrated its 200th anniversary. A comedian called Robert Baddeley died in 1794, bequeathing actors in the company a round of "cake, wine and punch" in his memory, and since 1796 the theatre has celebrated Twelfth Night in a manner that Sir Toby Belch would have approved.

The cast of *Miss Saigon* duly sampled some cake and toasted the late actor.



● *It seems that Luciano Pavarotti may be forsaking his trademark handkerchief for a new talisman. In Cape Town last night for a concert, he was spotted buying nine pairs of ethnic sandals from a street vendor. The cheap rubber-soled footwear is favoured by Zulu nightwatchmen, and comes in a variety of Day-Glo colours. Opera-goers should scrutinise his feet.*

Self-publicists

IS THE career of the boxer so transient that punchers have to hand out photographs of themselves to remind people what they look like?

Chris Eubank — who has recently retired from the ring — was spotted at the opening of a restaurant before Christmas handing out postcards with an image of himself sitting on a motorbike in jodhpurs. Waving aside autograph-books, he doled these out and signed them.

At one of Lord Archer's recent festive bashes, Frank Bruno, a boxer whom one would have thought equally distinctive, delighted fellow guests by handing out pictures of himself.



Eubank: wheeled out

P·H·S

PARENTAL DUTIES

School needs to begin and end at home

High above the daily political battles for defectors, majorities and deals, another bigger battle is going on. Both parties sense the public disquiet eloquently expressed by David Selbourne on the page opposite on Saturday about the threat to our civic order. Both sense a growing call for the language of duty to supplant the excessive language of rights. The Tories, by their traditional doctrines, ought to be able to give the better answer. But Tony Blair has, with increasing boldness, appropriated the theme. It is a sign of the audacity with which he has leapfrogged the Tories that John Major yesterday felt obliged to take back for himself a piece of Labour policy.

Mr Major announced in a television interview that he wanted to see the nationwide use of home-school contracts in schools — an idea first adopted as party policy by Labour last month. These contracts are already widely used by schools as a way of encouraging parents to take their children's education more seriously. Parents are typically required to ensure their child's regular and punctual attendance at school, to supervise homework and to attend meetings with teachers. Schools set themselves corresponding duties in return.

Such contracts remind parents both that the right to education involves responsibilities, and that education does not begin and end at the school gate. Most parents want the best for their children and already fulfil the terms of a home-school contract. The question is what to do with the small minority of problem parents who show no interest in their children's education and thus fall down on their side of the bargain.

Some suggest that these contracts should be given the force of law. Professor Michael Barber, an adviser to both the Government and the Labour Party, wrote in our Education pages that parents should have a statutory duty not only to see that their child attends school, but also to attend a meeting with their child's teacher at least twice a year to discuss the part they should play in their child's educational development.

But governments should think hard before creating new categories of crime — with all the bureaucracy, expense and demands on the criminal justice system. Already the machinery for ensuring that parents fulfil their statutory duty to send their children to school is applied only patchily. The Government would be right to start with informal contracts before proceeding further.

The existence of such contracts would at least influence the climate of national opinion. Just as the introduction of the Citizen's Charter has made British people more accomplished consumers, these contracts might also encourage them to become better citizens, more conscientious in the fulfilment of their duties.

A stubborn minority of uncooperative parents will remain; but it is questionable whether they would react even to the force of law. Some are simply inadequate to control their children, and their reluctant attendance at a meeting with teachers would not achieve much. Others may be too ill-educated themselves to help with homework, or have too little time, energy or space in their homes to be able to do so.

Schools will have to accept that a few children will always suffer from low parental expectations and poor conditions for learning. For these pupils, after-school homework clubs may have to take the place of family support. And if mentors can be found from the local community, they too can help to offer adult encouragement and interest. But the more that parents understand their responsibilities for the moral, social and educational development of their children, the less these safety-net measures will be needed — and the more cohesive society will become.

RUSSIA'S MIDWINTER

Where earth stands hard as iron and democratic hopes falter

Orthodox Christmas is the time to remember that Russia began as an authoritarian economic laggard. From there it leapt into history's vanguard, as the Soviet Union became the bloodstained crucible of a totalitarian experiment. Boris Yeltsin, who won the first democratic election for the Russian presidency, outfaced the reactionary anti-Gorbachev coup and used his moment of maximum power to bring about the collapse of the Communist Party and the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself.

History has galloped the Russian steppe since and once again its course appears to be veering. Mr Yeltsin has promised that by his 65th birthday next month, he will announce whether he will run this June for a second term. Heavy as the odds against success were when Mr Yeltsin originally challenged the party machine, his chances with the electorate currently look slighter still.

Mr Yeltsin's personal standing has plummeted, to around 10 per cent. In bad health, he must reckon with the certainty that this time, the contest will run into a second round. Not only did last month's parliamentary elections confirm his Government's deep unpopularity, but great patches of Communist red and ultranationalist black stain the psephological entrails.

Should he run, he cannot discount the risk of a first-round defeat. That could leave Russians to choose between Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the revived and only partially reformed Communist Party, and Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the repellent ultranationalist whose continued electoral appeal puts in question the irreversibility of Russian democracy. Reformers have made little secret of their belief that if Russia is to escape a rendezvous with the past, democrats need a new standard-bearer.

Russians have damned their Government: but considering how small is the new middle class and how many live in appalling conditions, that is hardly extraordinary. The great question is whether they have also turned their backs on reform, even on democracy. Mr Zyuganov speaks softly to the West, but he has yet to repudiate the past. Before trying their hand at democratic politics, he and his party backed every undemocratic attempt to get rid of Mr Yeltsin. The Communist pitch on the hustings was not about cushioning change, but about stopping it: voters were promised most of the old certainties of a state-controlled economy — and they seem ready to forget what economic lunacy went with it.

Even in Russia, the clock will not be as easy to put back as many fear. In any great social transformation, the secret is to create more winners than losers. Russia is not there yet, but with 60 per cent of the economy in private hands, the number of people with a stake in economic freedoms is growing. The political landscape is bleaker. Free votes have yet to translate into truly democratic government: Russia is still run by interest groups competing behind closed doors for the Kremlin's ear. The pressure for accountability is there: the turnout in the December elections proved that Russians take their vote seriously. The country is no longer a "riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma". But Russia's new year is still hard to read and it is far from the "normality" that reformers crave and the world needs.

THE WAY OF ALL

When perpetual dreamers attempt perpetual motion

The family that set off on its dream holiday has come home to earth. A year ago Gordon Finch, a builder fed up with the "doom and gloom" of modern Britain, set sail to escape. After pressure from his family, he took along his wife, three sons, two of the sons' girlfriends and a toddler grandson. He sold up in that fine North Yorkshire town of Stokesley. With the money he bought an eight-berth yacht equipped with bathrooms, colour television, freezer and washing machine. The plan was that the Finches would spend five years cruising around the holiday world, returning in time for the millennium to discover whether the real world had become a better place.

They left under a nimbus of envious publicity. But they did not keep sailing away for even the year and a day of those other fantasy sailors, Lear's Owl and the Pussy-Cat. They voyaged only as far as Spain. Thence they have just slunk back with Yorkshire taciturnity to those asking for news of their dream holiday. They retain the small consolation that, with the property market finally leaving the doldrums, they may be the last such Rip Van Winkle sailors to find house prices the same as when they set sail.

Somewhere over the rainbow is for the birds in Cloud-Cuckoo-Land and the pubescent Judy Garland. On a Monday morning in early January this may sound a puritanical doctrine. But dreams are for dreaming not waking, fantasy is fun only when imagined against the real world. The holiday of a lifetime is a necessary myth such as the Garden of Eden, Hollywood and Atlantis. But an everlasting holiday is an oxymoron, because without harsh life to get away from, holiday loses its meaning.

As usual, Shakespeare wrote this leader first. "If all the year were playing holidays,/ To sport would be as tedious as to work." Charming and independent Millamant in *The Way of All Flesh*, Irished-up a trifle by Fiona Shaw at the National Theatre, put such suburban weekend romantics firmly in their place: "I nauseate walking; 'tis a country diversion. I loathe the country."

Of course we should not loathe the country or pleasure-boating with quite the emphasis of witty, pretty Millamant. But for most of the world these are holiday and weekend excursions. When they retire to their former holiday heavens, many people find loneliness and boredom instead of the old pleasure in change. Most of the fun of the National Lottery lies in fantasy about what to do with the money if you won. Winners seem to find disappointment, envy, boredom, loss of purpose and embarrassment. They should give away their money to found a university or support orphans.

Man was not sent into this world entirely for pleasure, not even that of continual sailing. The latest escapists have just repeated a message as old as history. Man is a Monday-morning, working creature earning his bread in the sweat of his face. Without the common mortal grind to set them against, dreams are a disappointment and holidays a contradiction. The Finches are better off in Stokesley than marooned in Never Never Land or the travel brochures.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hong Kong tax tips for Britain

From Professor Peter G. Willoughby

Sir, Mr Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, in his recent Conservative Central Office lecture (report, October 30, 1995), drew attention to the economic advantages of the territory's low-tax, low-expenditure economy. He was quite right to do so. However, it is not only in economic terms that the Hong Kong tax system has much to teach the United Kingdom.

While Hong Kong has never placed much emphasis on social engineering through the tax system (preferring to stress simple legislation, low tax rates, low administrative costs and high yields), the latest proposed amendment to the tax law is an admirable example of simple pragmatic tax legislation which has a clear social purpose.

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No 4) Bill 1995 provides for the total disallowance for tax purposes of all forms of income and capital expenditure on private cars. This will apply to employers who provide cars for use by employees, to self-employed persons and to employees. The exclusion will apply to the costs of acquisition as well as running expenses, irrespective of whether the car is used for business or private purposes.

While the Bill's primary purpose is the discouragement of the use of private cars, in the hope of reducing traffic congestion, it is also likely to provide a simpler and more effective way of taxing the benefit enjoyed by an employee whose employer provides a car. Thus an employer will be taxed on the full cost of providing cars for employees — a distinct improvement on the taxation of employees on the value of a benefit which has to be determined by an elaborate formula, as is the case in the United Kingdom.

Incidentally, the Bill contains six short sections covering just over a page. Perhaps the drafting style also has something to teach the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILLOUGHBY,
Old Mill House, La Hêche,
St Anne, Alderney, Channel Islands.
January 3.

From the Personal Adviser to the Governor of Hong Kong

Sir, In his article of December 29, headed "Why Tony Blair is looking East", Mr Denis MacShane wrongly states that the Governor of Hong Kong "appealed", in a recent lecture for Britain to bring central government expenditure down "to around 30 per cent of national earnings".

While Mr Patten advocated a cut in the State's take of national income, he did not specify a target; and he explicitly stated that he did not regard Hong Kong's level of public spending as a proportion of GDP as a realistic target for OECD countries.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LLEWELLYN,
Personal Adviser to the Governor,
Government House, Hong Kong.
January 2.

A safe place in Europe

From Mr Gordon M. L. Smith

Sir, Dr Peter Chapman (letter, December 23) writes that the Tories will lose the election because "thousands of their followers, such as myself, cannot accept the abnegation of sovereignty, the primacy of Parliament and our courts, which they seem happy to abandon".

So will Dr Chapman vote for Labour, who will be very happy to abnegate sovereignty, Parliament, courts, etc, or for the Liberal Democrats, who would grovel before Brussels?

Mr Major is skilfully negotiating to keep our liberties while profiting commercially from such aspects of the EU as are not completely corrupt.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON M. L. SMITH,
9 Greenfield Way,
Storrington, West Sussex.

Contradiction in terms

From Mr David Ravens

Sir, You describe Stephen Leacock (Anniversaries, December 30) as "humorous writer and economist". Surely, if the second term is accurate then the first is redundant?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID RAVENS,
44 Arthursdale Grange,
Scholes, West Yorkshire.
December 30.

Wastefulness of charity mailshots

From Mrs Eileen Bushell

Sir, I was glad to read Mr Adolphe Salem's letter of January 1 pointing out that charities often defeat the object of their appeals for funds by duplicating them.

As a life member of one charity for some 25 years, a member of its local committee and one who, at the charity's request, disclosed what I had left them in my will, I have become deluged with letters asking me to become a member or life member.

I wrote to the director enclosing some of the many letters I had received. Result: a Christmas card. But still I get appeals.

This time I have not put them in the waste-paper basket but into a sack. Eventually I will weigh them and maybe turn up at the annual general meeting with an assessment of the environmental damage they cause.

Can the Charities Act not be amended to rule not only that applicants for membership may insist that their identity and personal details are not passed or sold to other charities, but that no charity sends out appeals to its own members.

Yours sincerely,
EILEEN BUSHELL,
11 Fullands Court,
Kingsway, Taunton, Somerset.
January 1.

From the Director of the Wishbone Trust

Sir, This medical charity, supporting research into orthopaedic surgery and bone diseases, has two full-time staff and over 30,000 supporters throughout the UK, mostly former patients. Mailings are vital to us, both to keep our supporters in touch with what we are doing and to encourage further donations.

Though I would love to write personal letters, we are reliant on computers to help us for practical reasons. Every effort is made to save money by "deduplicating" — an awkward new word which is now part of the argot of computer technology.

Two problems can arise. Firstly, your correspondent might have responded to one appeal as Adolphe A. Salem, to the next as A. A. Salem, to the next as A. Salem, and so on through all the possible permutations: a charity might thus be unsure whether it is being supported by one person or by different members of a family. Secondly, and more commonly, there may have been a mechanical or computer error in printing.

To check 30,000 envelopes manually for duplication would be a waste of resources. We are reliant, in the final analysis, on the help of our supporters to tell us if duplicate mailings have crept through our checks. This information is received as gratefully as a donation by any charity keen to save money and improve its efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL VALLANCE,
Director,
The Wishbone Trust,
British Orthopaedic Association,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
January 2.

Our cultural state

From Mr J. L. Cook

Sir, In his review of 1995 (December 30) your Arts Editor paints a dire picture of the British system of funding for the arts, and concludes by asking whether we have the thirst for culture.

We have an "Arts Council", and we have the grotesquely named "National Heritage" Department. We should scrap them both, at once, and declare our thirst by establishing a properly funded Ministry of Culture. Or are we ashamed of the very word?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COOK,
4 Brockwell Gate,
Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

From Mr Donald King

Sir, I enjoyed Richard Morrison's article about the state of culture in the country. He seems, however, to understand culture only in terms of what is delivered professionally to the public by theatre and opera companies, national orchestras, museums and galleries and the like.

All these activities are important and we would be the poorer without them. But he does not take account of the great quantity and variety of amateur cultural activity in the country. Everywhere, there are amateur musicians giving concerts, amateur dramatic companies putting on plays and pantomimes, amateur artists and craftsmen putting on shows.

Richard Morrison asks whether we still have a thirst for culture. On the basis of what ordinary people are doing for themselves, the answer I believe must be "Yes".

As regards the professional art world, I think many of us, from time to time, feel considerable doubt about the worth and integrity of some of its activities and suspect that it is primarily concerned with indulging itself.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD KING,
Greenways, Cray Road,
Crockenhill, Swanley, Kent.
January 1.

Wider goals

From Mr S. Carse

Sir, "Fifa plans to move goalposts in bid to entertain", you report (Sport, early editions, January 3).

Can football's international governing body really be serious? Can its "guardians" really be so disenchanted with the entertainment value of the world game, and so bereft of ideas, that the only proposal for change they can come up with is to enlarge the goals?

Apparently there will be a "trial period" using the bigger targets. But how is success or failure to be determined? I suspect that for Fifa there can only be one outcome. If more goals are scored this will be put forward as proof-positive that bigger goals mean more entertainment. If there is no significant increase then the larger goals will remain, on the basis that fears of goals being devalued have not been borne out.

The rationale for the change appears to be based on the improved physical attributes and capabilities of goalkeepers. But surely this is mirrored by similar improvements amongst outfield players. Moreover, with the advent of faster and lighter footballs, many with unpredictable flight, one might argue that (all other things being equal) scoring is now easier than ever before.

Presumably the final decision on this proposal rests with the various FAs worldwide. Can we rely on our own FA to help kick this ridiculous idea into touch?

Yours faithfully,
S. CARSE,
75 Cronk Coar, Douglas, Isle of Man.
January 4.

Schools inspection

From the Leader of Wandsworth Council

Sir, What a relief it was to learn ("Checks on schools could be cut back", January 3) that the Government is at last acknowledging the enormous cost of its cumbersome Ofsted inspection programme.

This council has consistently advised that the single comprehensive inspection, in which Ofsted continues to place its confidence, is inexcusably expensive and takes no account of the differences in quality between schools, which we all know to exist. The backbone of the system should be a concise annual review carried out locally under national rules. There should be a second level of inspection when there is concern about a school. Teams of inspectors would go into a school at short notice to inspect, report and make recommendations to the governing body about getting things back on course.

The third type of inspection, to be used only on rare occasions, would be similar to the current Ofsted model and should be reserved for those schools where a major investigative inquiry is necessary.

Perhaps we will now get a smaller central regulating body which will define standards clearly and give us an uncomplicated picture of what needs to be done to improve performance in all schools.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LISTER,
Leader of Council,
Leader's Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.
January 4.

Strife in Pakistan

From the High Commissioner for Pakistan

Sir, May I respond to two references to Pakistan's affairs which you have published recently, starting with the adverse comments by Mr Randhir Singh Bains (letter, December 29) on what he terms our "interference" in the Afghan civil war.

Pakistan, which is a developing country with little time for a "grand vision of establishing an Islamic bloc", has been host to all the factions of Mujahidin fighting the Soviet invaders of Afghanistan. Our own society was torn asunder by the influx of close to four million Afghan refugees and the consequent "kalashnikovisation" and "heroinisation". The members of the current regime in Kabul were also our guests for the long years of Soviet occupation. Because of our long and porous border with Afghanistan, which means that we can ill afford continuing strife in that country, Pakistan has no connections with the Taleban militia. If, however, the Taleban cross into Pakistan to buy supplies in our border towns there is precious little we can do about it.

As to your report of December 27, headed "Bhutto plays on Western fears to stay in control", it is true that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto does not "shrink" before the power of the obscurantists among Pakistan's clergy. However, the religious political parties, which were armed to the teeth by the dictator Zia ul-Haq, are now "mauled in elections" precisely because of Benazir's commanding role in Pakistan's politics.

Obscurantists float very close to the surface of our political pond and they emerge whenever inept and backward regimes come into power through rigged elections: witness the host of blasphemy cases registered between 1977 and 1988, when Zia ul-Haq was in power.

The fact is, Sir, that Ms Bhutto's Government is a bulwark against those who turn and twist our beautiful religion to suit their own political ends by their mindless opposition to the present liberal regime.

Yours sincerely,
WAJID SHAMSUL HASAN,
High Commission for Pakistan,
36 Lowndes Square, SW1.
December 29.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Hallmarks of a portrait painter

From Mr Michael Stanyon

Sir, Your obituary of Terence Cuneo (January 5) made no mention of his hallmark, the mouse, inevitably hidden in some appropriate spot, whatever the subject. Who could find the mouse first became a point of honour in our family.

Whilst enjoying hunting through the wealth of detail in any of Cuneo's paintings we would look forward to standing back to see his painting as a whole. His sense of atmosphere conjured up the occasion so well that one could almost smell the smoke or feel the wind on one's cheeks.

The inevitable mouse fleeing from the speeding locomotive or sitting, in engineman's clothing, on the buffers, or even with coronet and ermine at a State Opening of Parliament, always added a subtle dimension of humour. We shall miss his talent.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STANYON,
3 Acrewood,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
January 5.

From Mr Brian West

Sir, In January, 1965, with Winston Churchill's body lying in state in Westminster Hall, Terence Cuneo woke one night with the conviction that he just had to record the scene. The Lord Chamberlain's Office were somewhat taken aback by his early morning call, but thanks to his standing in official circles, permission was granted for him to do his preliminary sketches that day. The large and impressive canvas subsequently went on an extensive tour of the United States.

Your obituary mentioned his liking for riding western-style when in the US (he was very proud of being an honorary marshal of Tombstone). He also did this around his home at East Molesey, Surrey, on a splendid palomino with silver-tooled saddle, six-guns, etc, and regularly appeared like this for local charity events.

One of his best friends and "pupils" for many years was the Canadian singer, Edmund Hockridge, who helped on a number of large, special event canvases by "filling in the dark bits".

Yours etc,
BRIAN WEST,
Hapusrwydd,
21 Old London Road, Flint.
January 5.

From Mr Kevin McCormack

Sir, Most of Terence Cuneo's splendid railway paintings, some of which featured on British stamps issued in the 1980s, depicted steam trains. However, he also painted a wide variety of modern diesels, including Le Shuttle — with one mouse waving the Union Jack in the left-hand corner of the painting and another mouse waving the Tricolor in the right.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN McCORMACK,
13 Overdale, Ashtead, Surrey.
January 5.

From Mr Allen Levy

Sir, Terence Cuneo had a passion for railways.

He travelled throughout the world and everywhere would sketch and paint the local railway scene. Some of his finest work will be remembered in a series of posters for British Railways from 1947 onwards. He was undoubtedly the "Munnings" of the iron horse.

As his publisher over some twenty years, I feel sure that Terry would have been somewhat irked by this omission from your obituary.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN LEVY,
New Cavendish Books Limited,
3 Denbigh Road, W11.
January 5.

From Mr William Haddow

Sir, I have spent 30 minutes peering over your obituary of Terence Cuneo, but still can't find the mouse. Where have you hidden it?

Yours, puzzled,
WILLIAM HADDOW,
22 Keir Street, Glasgow 41.
January 5.

Time was when . . .

From Mr William Callaghan

Sir, I take Mr Patrick Howarth's point (letter, December 28); clearly the task of spotting new "in" phrases is down to us.

Hopefully an informal system of surveillance could soon be up and running. We can keep an eye on what is happening out there. Hidden agenda or not, let's go for it.

Know what I mean?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM CALLAGHAN,
13 Wharncliffe Close,
Hoyland, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.
January 1.

Mobile menace

From Mr Steve Race

Sir, Does anyone market a device for jamming mobile phones in trains or restaurants?

Yours etc,
STEVE RACE,
Westcott,
Martins End Lane,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.
January 4.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 6: Today, being the Feast of the Epiphany, a Sung Eucharist was held in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, when the customary offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were made on behalf of The Queen by Colonel Malcolm Havergal and Rear Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest (Gentlemen Ushers to Her Majesty).

The Rev William Booth (Sub-Dean of her Majesty's Chapels Royal) was the Celebrant and presented the Offerings, assisted by the Reverend Gordon Watkins (Priest in Ordinary).

The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Chapel.

SANDRINGHAM
January 7: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Leicester preached the Sermon.

Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Master Matthew Welberry Smith, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr Michael Walker, the Headmaster.

Royal engagement

The Duke of Kent will open an exhibition of paintings of Brazil at Christie's Great Rooms, King Street, at 6.45.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Dinner

Medical Officers of Schools Association
Lord Weatherill, accompanied by Lady Weatherill, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Medical Officers of Schools Association held on Saturday at Sevenoaks School, Kent. Dr Robin Fawkner-Corbett, president, was in the chair.

Billy Marsh

A Memorial Service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Billy Marsh, 1917-1995, will be held at St James' Church, Piccadilly, London, W1, on Monday, February 5, at 11.00am. Donations will be gratefully accepted in memory of Billy at Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QG.

Party

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained children connected with the City institutions, the City Livery Companies, HM Forces and London Boroughs at a fancy dress party held on Saturday at the Mansion House.

Memorial service

The Right Rev Gerald Colin
A memorial service for the Right Rev Gerald Colin was held on Saturday in Lincoln Cathedral. The Bishop of Lincoln officiated, assisted by the Dean of Lincoln.

The Ven J. Hewitt Wilson read the lesson and Mr John Bird, brother-in-law, read from the works of John Donne.

The Ven Christopher Laurence, Archdeacon Emeritus of Lindsey, paid tribute. The Right Rev Simon Phipps gave an address. The Right Rev Dennis Hawker was robed and in the choir.

Sir Trenchard Cox

A Memorial Service for Sir Trenchard Cox will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields at 10.30am on Wednesday, January 17.

JAMES MORGAN



Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, with Canon Gerry Murphy, Chaplain of the Tower of London, left, and Canon Colin Fletcher, the archbishop's personal chaplain, attending an Epiphany service at the Tower yesterday

Royal Ascot

The Royal Meeting will take place at Ascot on June 18-21, 1996. The list for applications for the Royal Enclosure is now open and Her Majesty's Representative wishes to draw your attention to the changes concerning the issue of vouchers to young people.

The age limit for junior vouchers has been raised to include all those aged between 16 and 29 years. The dates of birth must be stated in the letter of application.

Only personal letters of application will be accepted. Existing members should apply, as usual, before the end of April. All those wishing to apply for the first time should make an application before the end of March stating the full names of those members of their family who require vouchers, together with their dates of birth if between 16 and 29 years. Sponsorship forms will then be sent which should be signed by a sponsor who has been present in the Royal Enclosure for a minimum of eight years.

Overseas visitors should apply direct to their Embassies in London.

In the enclosure ladies will wear formal day dress with hat which must cover the crown of the head. Gentlemen will wear morning dress with top hat, or service dress.

Applications should be addressed to Her Majesty's Representative, The Ascot Office, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BP.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philip Astley, theatre manager, Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1742; Wilkie Collins, novelist, London, 1824; Hans von Bulow, pianist and conductor, Dresden, 1830; Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, painter, The Netherlands, 1836; John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister 1941-45, Creswick, Victoria, 1885; Solomon Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon 1956-59, Colombo, 1899; Elvis Presley, singer, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1935; Dennis Wheatley, novelist, 1897.

DEATHS: Edgar, King of Scotland reigned 1097-1107, Edinburgh Castle, 1107; Giotto, painter, Florence, 1337; Galileo Galilei, mathematician and astronomer, Arcetri, Italy, 1642; Arcangelo Corelli, composer, Rome, 1713; John Baskerville, typographer and printer, London, 1775; Eli Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, New Haven, Connecticut, 1825; Robert Stephenson Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, general and founder of the Boy Scouts, Nyeri, Kenya, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, Australia, 1948; Kurt Schwitters, painter, Little Langdale, Cumbria, 1948; Chou En-lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China 1949-76, Peking, 1976.

Rationing of butter, bacon and sugar began, 1940.
General Charles de Gaulle was proclaimed President of the French Republic, 1959.
Spain ended its siege of Gibraltar and reopened the frontier, 1982.

School announcements

Aiglon College
The Winter term began yesterday. School guardians are Marina Andina and Rodrigo Leiva: Marina Andina and Mobolaji Akindele are captains of skiing. Parents' Information Day at the school will be on February 16. A presentation on the school will take place in London on Thursday, January 25, at the Royal Automobile Club for interested parents followed by an annual reunion on Friday, January 26. For information about these events please contact the school.

Brentwood School (HMC)
The Lent Term begins today. Entrance Examinations for the Main and Preparatory Schools take place on January 20. Half term is from February 16 until February 25. The Junior School production of *Toad of Toad Hall* will be performed from March 14 to 16. A Chamber concert takes place on February 7. The Old Brentwoods Society Dinner will be held on March 22, with the Old Brentwoods Family Afternoon on March 23. Term ends March 26.

Bromsgrove School
Bromsgrove School convenes today for the Lent Term. The Choral Society will perform a programme of Borodin, Lambert and Orff's *Carmina Burana* in Birmingham Town Hall on the evening of March 21. Term ends on Friday, March 22.

Charterhouse
The Long Quarter begins today. Ian Hayes continues as Head of School. Chee Kay Chow will continue as Head Girl until Exeat when she will be succeeded by Katie Abouzahr. Nick Frendo and Charlotte Crawford are Captains of Hockey and Belinda Hurst Captain of Lacrosse. The Bishop of Guildford will conduct a Service of Confirmation in Chapel on Saturday, February 3, at 5.00pm. The Peter Newton Entrance Scholarships for Sixth Formers will be held on March 1 and 2. Details of Music and Drama Events may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary. Exeat is from Friday, February 16, to Tuesday, February 20. The Quarter ends on Saturday, March 16.

Chetham's School of Music
Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. The Symphony Orchestra and Wind Band Concert will be held at the Royal Northern College of Music on February 15, 1996, and the programme will include Mahler's 1st Symphony. This concert will then be repeated at Leeds Town Hall on February 16, 1996. Term ends on March 30, 1996, with Founder's Day in Manchester Cathedral, when the Preacher will be the Bishop of Hull, the Right Rev James Jones.

Cobham Hall
The Spring Term begins today. Camilla Cowan continues as Guardian. Prep School Heads are *invited to visit the school on* Tuesday, February 6. The School Play is on Saturday, March 23 and Term ends on Sunday, March 24, at 9am.

Haileybury & ISC
Easter Term at Haileybury begins today. The Right Rev Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans, has succeeded the Right Rev John Taylor as President of Council and Chairman of the Governing Body. Major General John Homan, CB, has succeeded Sir John Manduell, CBE, as President of the Haileybury Society. Mr David Ross, Director of Drama, will direct three performances of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Oklahoma* in Big School from Thursday, February 29, to Saturday, March 2. The Choral Society and Orchestra will perform Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* on March 14. Term ends on March 30.

Moira House, Eastbourne
Easter Term at Moira House begins today and ends on March 16. Sarah Applewhite and Sarah Platt continue as School Knights. The Ingham Scholarship Examinations for entry into the Junior School and Senior School will be held on January 19 and 20. Full details are available from the Headmaster's Secretary. The Moira House Old Girls' Club Reunion this term is at The Viking Hotel, York on January 20. The 1st VII Netball Team represents Sussex as Sussex Champions at the South East Regional Netball Tournament on Saturday, January 27. The Middle School Play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed on March 1 and 2. Mr Anthony Hopkins, CBE, will give a Lecture Recital on March 5 and a Masterclass on March 6. The Easter Concerts will be on Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, and the School Confirmation Service is at All Saints on Thursday, March 14. The Ski Expedition departs on Saturday, March 16, and the French Exchange Group to Montpelier on Monday, April 8.

Oakham School
Spring Term at Oakham School begins today. Music and Art & Design Scholarship Examinations for 11+ and 13+ entry will be held on February 5 and 6. Academic Scholarship Examinations for 13+ entry will be held on February 12, 13 and 14. The Oakham School Symphony Orchestra will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No 5 on February 29. On Sunday, March 10, in the School Chapel, the Oakham School Choral Society and Orchestra will perform the Vaughan Williams Mass in G and the Fauré Requiem.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe
The Spring Term begins today at Pipers Corner with 350 pupils. Sixth Form Scholarship examinations will take place on Monday and Tuesday, January 22 and 23, with interviews on Wednesday, February 14. Entrance tests for 11+ and 12+ entry will be held on Saturday, January 27, in the Main School. The Right Rev Paul Burrough will be conducting the Confirmation Service on Thursday, February 15, at 2pm at St Michael & All Angels, Hughenden.

Pocklington School, York
The Lent Term at Pocklington School, York, begins today. Old Pocklingtonian Dinners will take place in Oxford on Saturday, February 10, and Newcastle on Saturday, March 2 — times and venues to be confirmed. The term ends on Thursday, March 21, 1996.

Woodbridge School
The Easter Term at Woodbridge School, Suffolk, begins today. The Official Opening of the new All Weather Pitch will be on February 13; Science Week begins with a Science and Technology Fair on March 16; the Biennial Concert at the Snape Maltings Concert Hall is on March 22; the Old Woodbridgian Dinner on March 23 and the One Day Equestrian Event at Poplar Park on March 24. Details of all these occasions can be obtained from the School. 01394 385547.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S.S. Bird and Miss H.J. Kimpton
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Bird, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Helen, only daughter of Mr G.P. Kimpton, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and Mrs S.A. Kimpton, of Hayfield, Derbyshire.

Mr J.E.G. Corbett and Miss Z.A.M. Maidment
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Corbett, of the Isle of Mull, Argyll, and Zara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Maidment, of Little Wratting, Suffolk.

Mr C.F.R. de Havas and Miss N-Z. Jones
The engagement is announced between Christopher Frederic Eric, only son of Mr and Mrs W. de Havas, of Little Parrock Farm, Colemans Hatch, East Sussex, and Nicola-Zoe, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Jones, of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Mr R.P. Haywood and Miss A. Carmichael
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Edwin Jeffrey Haywood, of Georgetown, Guyana, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Carmichael, of Welland, Worcestershire.

Mr P.D. Henry and Miss G. Ravenscroft
The engagement is announced between Patrick Denis, son of the late Denis Valentine Henry and of Mrs Elisabeth Henry, of Blackburn, Lancashire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Dennis Ravenscroft, of Formby, Merseyside.

Mr D.A. Hurren and Miss H.M. Anstice
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs K.K. Hurren, of Disley, Cheshire, and Mary, daughter of the late Mr E.C.M. Anstice and of Mrs J.M. Anstice, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire.

Mr A.J.C. Jeffrey and Miss E.C. Trigg
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of the late Mr C. Jeffrey and of Mrs John Lee and stepson of Mr John Lee, of Somerset, and Emma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis Trigg, of Durham.

Mr M.C.B. Luzi and Miss C.J. Barker
The engagement is announced between Michele, elder son of Signor and Signora L. Luzi, of Rome, Italy, and Carolyn, only daughter of Mr J. Barker, of Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, and of Mrs M. Barker, of Markyate, Hertfordshire.

Mr R. Orr Ewing and Miss A. Obeid
The engagement is announced between Robert Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.D. Orr Ewing, of Wigtown, Scotland, and Amani, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Obeid, of Harborne, Birmingham.

Mr J.P. Riley and Miss R.J. Ayres
The engagement is announced between Jason, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Riley, of Worplesdon, Surrey, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Ayres, of Heasley Mill, Devon.

Mr T.E. Robinson and Miss J.E. Standish
The engagement is announced between Timothy Edward, younger son of Colonel and Mrs Richard Robinson, of New Wimpole, Cambridge, and Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Standish, of Woking, Surrey.

Mr A.W-W. Tang, FRACS (Orth), and Miss K. Kielbinska
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr K.Y. and Dr S.K. Tang, of Melbourne, Australia, and Karina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs O.J. Kielbinski, of Brussels and Chandlers Ford, Hampshire.

Mr M.R. Watts and Miss E.S.M. Sturt
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr and Mrs Reginald Watts, of West Hill, London, and Emma, daughter of the late Major John Sturt and of Mrs Sturt, of St Crepin de Richemont, France.

Marriages

Mr L.G. de Pelet and Miss R.E.C. Palmer
The marriage took place on December 30, at Holy Innocents Church, Foulsham, Norfolk, between Mr Louis de Pelet and Miss Rebecca Palmer.

The bride was attended by Naomi Swain and Hamish Cole. Mr Mark Hopkins was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

Mr C.L. Hansard and the Hon Mrs Joanna Wood
The marriage took place on December 22, at the Anglican Cathedral, Zanzibar, between Mr Charles Hansard, of Louth, Ireland, son of the late Mr H.L. Hansard and of Mrs O.A. Hansard, and the Hon Mrs Joanna Wood, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pinches, of Ramsbury, Wiltshire.

Birthdays today

Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 59; Mr David Bowie, singer, 49; Mr S.G. Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher, 62; Mr Phil Hall, Editor, *News of the World*, 41; Professor Stephen Hawking, CH, theoretical physicist, 54; Lord Hollenden, 82; Mr Andrew Hunter, MP, 53; Mr Howard Jones, former Governor, Belmarsh prison, 60; the Right Rev E.G. Knapp-Fisher, former Archdeacon of Westminster, 81; Professor Sir Robert May, FRS, zoologist, Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 73; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 72; Mr Robert Parry, MP, 63; Mr D.E. Prince, Headmaster, Reed's School, Surrey, 58; Mr Ken Purchase, MP, 57; Mrs I.M. Read, MEP, 57; Professor W.B. Reddaway, economist, 83; Mr Robert A. Solberg, chairman, Texaco, 50; Miss Galina Ulanova, prima ballerina, 86; Sir Geoffrey Whalen, former deputy chairman, Peugeot Talbot Motor Company, 60; Professor A.G. Wilson, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University, 57.

Latest wills

Mrs Winifred Alice **Coulson**, of London SW10, the writer of children's books and a founder and president of the Women's Council, left estate valued at £1,594,036 net. She left £5,000 to the Women's Council.

Mrs Mair **Bissell**, of Christchurch, Dorset £609,925

Mr Douglas **Blackhurst**, of Sheen, Staffs, late company director £874,431

Nature notes are on page 19 today

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul. The Lord's instruction never fails: it makes the simple wise.
Psalm 19 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

CADZOW - On January 2nd at St Thomas's Hospital, to Jessica (née Collins) and Ian, a son, Alexander James Scott.

EAMEY - On December 29th, to Victoria (née Rumham) and Robert, a son, Harry Robert, a brother for Alice.

GAGE - On January 4th, to Anna (née Hobson) and Jonathan, a son, Edward Moreton Quentin.

HARRISON - On January 4th 1996 to Sarah (née Onslow) and Simon, a son Rupert Edward John, a brother for Emily.

HUGHES-ONSLOW / SCABURRI - To Belinda and Paolo on 5th January 1996 - a Daughter Elsa.

MACALPINE-DOWNSE - On January 5th 1996, to Janet (née Whittington) and Robin, a son, James Robert.

GRAM - On December 30th 1995 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Carole (née Perez) and Crispin, a daughter, Sara Louise Margaret, a sister for George.

WOOD - On 22nd December to Nancy and Graham, a son, William Henry.

WOOLLEY - On Christmas Eve 1995 to Jack and Polly (née Weitzman) a son, James Philip, a brother for Emily.

DEATHS

ANDREW - Edith Annie (nee Hurt) of Little Eaton, Derbyshire died peacefully on Wednesday 3rd January, aged 88. A loving and much loved mother and grandmother. The funeral will take place at 2.30 pm on 15th January at Little Eaton Parish Church.

BALL - Dr Angela Rosamund Ball M.B.E. On 5th January 1996 in Rome after a short illness, dearly loved wife of Jim Ball and sister of Richard Cooke. Enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to Great Missenden Funeral Services. Tel: 01494 863101. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, 18 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

BARNES - Clarice Winifred, beloved wife of Barney and mother of Rosemary, died peacefully in her 90th year on 4th January 1996 in Southampton General Hospital. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends from New Milton and Enniskillen. Funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium on Monday 15th January at 3.30 pm. No flowers but a donation in lieu to a charity of your choice.

DEATHS

BERKELEY - Peacefully on January 3rd, 1996, Rowland (Row) Berkeley aged 86 years. The dearly loved husband of Peggy, father of Hugh, Pat, Judy and Sally and a much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Requiem Mass on Thursday January 11th in All Saints' Church, Brenchley, Kent at 11 am. All enquiries to J. Kemp-Welch and Sons, tel: (01892) 523131.

BULLOCK - On January the 5th peacefully at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Dr John Desmond Bullock, beloved husband of Denise and dear father of Astrid, Frances and Sarah. Funeral service at Stockport Crematorium on Friday 12th January 1996 at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations to Salvation Army may be sent to Malcolm Shaw & Son, 3 Church Street, Marple, Stockport.

COLE - Evelyn peacefully on 2nd January aged 81. Professional Nanny to many. She will be sadly missed by family and friends. Any enquiries to the Co-operative Funeral Service, 100 Brighton Road, Purley, tel: (0181) 660-7622.

COMBE - On Thursday January 4th 1996 unexpectedly in Cambridge, Rachel Helen (Ella), widow of Dr. T.G.S. Combe and a beloved mother and grandmother, aged 83 years. Funeral Service at Cambridge Crematorium on Wednesday January 10th at 11.45 am.

COOKE - Dr Angela Rosamund Cooke M.B.E. - see BALL.

COWDELL - Paul. Painfully 5th January 1996. Missed by all at Finnegan's Wake. No flowers. Donations to Universal Grinding Wheel. "He has gone, he has gone".

DUNKLEY - Edith, in her 101st year died, very peacefully of old age, on 3rd January 1996. Requiem Mass at 10.00 am on Thursday 11th January at the Church of The Sacred Heart, Edge Hill, Wimbledon SW19, interment at 11am Gap Road Cemetery, Wimbledon. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Friends of The Elderly, 42 Ebury Street, London SW1.

FAIRBAIRN - Marion Frances Archer, widow of Dr. Ronald Fairbairn, peacefully after a short illness, on 30th December 1995. She will be much missed by her family and friends. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, at 2.30 pm on Thursday January 11th. No flowers please. Donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund (Macmillan Nurses).

DEATHS

CURRAN - On January 3rd at St George's Hospital, Dr. Michael J. aged 71 years. Loving and beloved husband of Eleanor, father of James, Michael, Peter and Eleanor and grandfather of Joseph, Timothy and Robin, younger brother of Noel, Tom, Betty and Elly. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Mass on Monday January 15th at the Church of Our Lady and St Peter, 15 Victoria Drive, SW19, at 11.30 am followed by interment at Putney Vale Cemetery at 12.30 pm. Flowers or donations to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (A.R.C.) c/o Fredk. W. Paine, tel: (0181) 946-1974.

GODBER - On 5th January 1996 peacefully at Park House, Sandy, Miriam Lady Godber aged 86 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Lord Godber of Willington. Dear mother of Richard and Robin and a much loved grandmother. Funeral service at St. Lawrences Church, Willington on Friday 12th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in aid of Bedford and District Handicapped Riding Association (B.D.H.R.A.) to Clarabut and Plumbe, Kingsway, Bedford. Tel: 01234 354647.

GREEN - On 29 December 1995, Allan, formerly of Commercial Union Assurance Company and Kay, Hockmann & Patt. Funeral service Wednesday 10 January 1.30 pm at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Nr Crawley.

HESELER - Joy, aged 76, after a long illness borne with great courage, in Isabel Hospice on 5th January. Much loved mother of Xana (Bat), grandmother of Rupert and sister of Betty. Funeral private. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Isabel Hospice c/o Geo. W. Blow & Sons Ltd. Funeral Service, tel: (01438) 714686.

JOLLY - Stephen Bagster. Linguist, writer and teacher. Heart attack on Christmas morning. Funeral Tuesday 9 January Mortlake Crematorium 1.30 pm. F/D 0181 567 0422.

MADDICK - Suddenly at home on January 2nd 1996, Leonard Maddick T.D., dearly loved husband of Irene and father of Clare and grandfather of Harry and Victoria. Service at St Andrew's Church, Cobham, on Wednesday January 10th at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations please to Cobham Cottage Hospital Appeal c/o James & Thomas Ltd. F/D, Mill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL.

DEATHS

NUTLAND - On 2nd January, after a short illness, Marion Lily, of West Wellow, Hampshire. Widow of Hubert and dearly loved mother of Penny, Angela, Jim and Jo. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St John the Baptist Church, Burley on Saturday 13th January at 11.30 am. Family flowers only donations to The British Heart Foundation or Wessex Childrens Hospice Trust Appeal c/o A.H. Chester, 122 The Hundred, Romsey, Hampshire.

RICKETT - Christopher Owen. On 30th December 1995 at home peacefully; much loved husband of June and loving father of Charles and Henry and grandfather of Ben, Matthew, William, Felicity and Verity; private cremation.

SCOTT - Suddenly on 30th December 1995 Michael aged 60 years. He will be deeply missed by Joan, Diane, Carol and Paul. Enquiries to Freeman Brothers Funeral Directors, tel: 01403) 254590.

STAPLES - On January 3rd 1996 Richard Edward of Cobham. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Service at St Mary's Church, Stoke d'Abernon on Thursday January 11th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Enquiries and donations to Cobham Cottage Hospital Appeal Fund c/o James & Thomas Ltd. F/D, Mill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AL.

STOOT - Charles. Loved by many, died suddenly on 31st December. We shall miss him. Funeral at St Mary's of Putney (south side of bridge) on January 12th at 12 o'clock.

TOWNEND - On January 5th in hospital after a short illness Estelle Denise, only child of the late Albert and Marcia Frost. Beloved wife of Royston and greatly loved by all. Funeral West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday 11th January at 4.30 pm.

WOOLLATT - Alan Charles of Lincoln's Inn died on the fourth of January 1996 after a distressingly long nervous illness. He is mourned by Beryl, Lucy and Domonic. By request there will be no funeral. Please send donations to St Mary's Hospital Special Trustees, London W2 1NY.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

NORMAN - A Memorial Service for Antony Norman OBE will be held on Wednesday January 10th 1996 at St Clement Danes Church, The Strand, London at noon.

THE MACKINTOSH OF MACKINTOSH - The Memorial Service for Lieutenant Commander Lachlan R.D. Mackintosh of Mackintosh OBE RN, 30th Chief of Clan Mackintosh and Lord Lieutenant of Lochaber, Inverness and Badenoch & Strathspey will be held at The Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Inverness at 2.30 pm on Thursday 18th January 1996.

YARROW - Audrey. A Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke's Church, Sydney Street, SW3 on Wednesday 17th January at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

FISHER - Emeritus Professor F.J. Born July 22 1908, died January 7 1988. Always remembered. Barbara, Teresa and Matthew.

SIMMONS - In proud and constant memory of my beloved husband Lewis Simmons (Sim) January 8th 1984. Norma.

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LEGAL NOTICES

City Merchants Limited
City Merchants (Holdings) Limited
C M Group Holdings Limited
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named companies which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before Friday 9 February 1996, to send to the undersigned Lesley Hermon of Hacker Young and Partners, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH the particulars of the Companies, together with details of the amount they claim to be due to them by the companies and, if so requested, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Boards to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the declaration of any dividend is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the distribution of that dividend or any other dividend declared before his debt was proved.
3rd January 1996
Lesley Hermon, Liquidator.
Note: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full, but if any person considers that he has a claim against the companies, he should send in his claim forthwith.

No. 007178 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF CADENCE DESIGN SYSTEMS LIMITED (formerly known as CADENCE EUROPE LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 20th day of December 1995 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from $5,000,000 to $4,644,195 and the Minute approved by the High Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 20th day of December 1995.
Dated the 4th day of January 1996.
Garrett & Co of 7 Burrer Street, London EC2R 2NN
Solicitors
for the above-named Company.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Rules 1986
Rule 4.182(A)
THE ANGLO-SWEDISH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mrs J B Stephenson, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Rowlls Rymill, 268 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PB, was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on 21st December 1995. The Liquidator gives notice, pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the Company must send details in writing of any claims against the Company to the Liquidator at the above address by 9 February 1996. The Liquidator also gives notice that the provision of Rule 4.182(A)(3), that she intends to make a distribution to creditors who have established claims by 9 February 1996, otherwise a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
Mrs Jane Belle Stephenson
Invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated 9th 21st December 1995
J B Stephenson
Name: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.

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OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL ARLEIGH BURKE

Admiral Arleigh Burke, wartime US Navy destroyer commander, died on January 1 aged 94. He was born on October 19, 1901.



ALTHOUGH the naval war in the Far East is generally thought of as having been a long-range duel between the aircraft of rival carrier groups, it also gave rise to some of the most fiercely fought surface actions in any theatre. For his successes in such battles — often breathtaking, high-speed affairs conducted at night against a backdrop of palm-fringed tropical islands — Arleigh Burke made himself the most celebrated destroyer skipper in the US Navy.

The intensity of these actions owed much to the well-matched nature of the forces involved. Unlike naval operations in the European and Atlantic theatres, which were, from the British point of view, essentially a dour defensive struggle to preserve supply lines, the Pacific saw a clash between modern navies conducted in the spirit of a fiery offensive.

The characters of the contestants lent much to this atmosphere: the Japanese, resourceful, brave and conscious that they must score a quick knockout blow before the still dormant industrial might of their opponents could be aroused; the Americans, pugnacious, determined to avenge galling defeats and confident that they possessed the capacity to encompass that end. Inflicting, not avoiding, damage was at the forefront of consciousness on both sides. Both navies, too, possessed large destroyer fleets of modern, well-armed vessels, considerably more powerfully gunned than most of those of Britain and Germany.

Burke had a considerable reputation as a ship and squadron handler before the war started. But he set the seal on it in the sea battles of the Solomons campaign of late 1943. Thereafter he took part in the decisive actions of the Philippines which finally destroyed the Japanese Navy. After the war he rose to become Chief of Naval Operations, a post in which he served for an unprecedented three terms.

Arleigh Burke was born in Boulder, Colorado, and educated locally and at Columbus, Missouri, before attending the US Naval Academy at Minneapolis. He later took an engineering degree at the University of Michigan. Before the war he served in a number of sea appointments, gaining wide experience in battleships, cruisers and destroyers. But ironically he was in a shore appointment in Washington when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and had great difficulty getting back to sea.

It was not until early in 1943 that he was sent to the South Pacific where the combative Admiral "Bull" Halsey had not long been in command. In the internecine sea-fighting off Guadalcanal the previous November, Halsey had demonstrated to the Japanese that their days of supremacy in the sphere of destroyer actions was over, and that they could expect stern opposition from the ships of the US Navy.

One of the principal instruments of this new-found aggressiveness was Burke, who was appointed to command Squadron 23, soon to become known as the "little Beavers" (a title having nothing to do with their diligence, but referring to a well-known American comic strip character). Meanwhile, Burke's penchant for taking his squadron into battle at the highest speed possible in any given set of circumstances earned him the nickname "31-knot Burke".

Towards the end of 1943 the desperate fighting which had begun at Guadalcanal in mid-1942 was rolling towards the northwestern end of the Solomons archipelago, where the Japanese were making their last stand. In November 1943, Squadron 23 scored two of its most resounding victories, the first off Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, where the American ships proved by their devastating use of torpedo attacks that they had shrugged off an earlier tendency to be wary of Japanese superiority in that department (The Japanese 21-inch, oxygen-powered Long Lance torpedo was one of the best of the war.) In No 23's second action, on November 25, 1943, it intercepted a force which was trying to reinforce the very last Japanese outpost on Buka Island, at the tip of the Solomons. In a brisk night battle off Cape St George, New Ireland, Burke's ships sank three Japanese destroyers in what proved a triumphant American finale to the Solomons campaign.

In March 1944 Burke went as chief of staff to Admiral Marc Mitscher, commander of US Task Force 58. Although it was a leap for a destroyer man to go to air operations, Burke was no hidebound "salt horse" (not actually a US Navy term, but one which in RN parlance describes a committed small ship man). As an engineer by profession he loved the application of innovatory technology to warfare and threw himself wholeheartedly into the art of deploying naval airpower.

This was now to be seen at its most devastating in the Battle of the Philippine Sea. When, on the morning of June 19, 1944, the Japanese detected Task Force 58 without having been discovered themselves, they fondly imagined themselves to be in a position to strike a crippling blow against the Americans. But they had reckoned without the magnificent radar cover enjoyed by the US Navy, and its capacity to deliver shrewd counter-punches. Most of the 370 aircraft the Japanese launched never came anywhere near Task Force 58. Thanks to the superb co-operation between Mitscher and Burke, American naval fighters intercepted the Japanese attackers 50 miles out from the task force and wreaked havoc on them. Those few that penetrated the fighter screen entered a maelstrom of anti-aircraft fire which took further toll of their numbers. The Japanese lost 240 aircraft, compared with an American figure of 29, a total so disproportionate that the day has become enshrined in the annals of American naval aviation as "the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot".

Burke served in Task Force 58 virtually to the end of the war in the Pacific, seeing action in most of the major battles, including that of the Leyte Gulf which finally broke the Imperial Japanese Navy. He was aboard the aircraft carrier *Bunker Hill* when she was hit by a kamikaze plane off Okinawa in May 1945, and was decorated for his bravery in extricating the wounded from burning wreckage.

After the war he fell into disfavour for a while for his participation in the 1949 "admirals' revolt" against Pentagon plans to place what he thought was an undue reliance on the giant Convair B36 bomber as a method of exercising strategic power. (An eccentric design with six "pusher" piston engines, it was anyway not a great success and was soon superseded by the Boeing B47 and B52 jet bombers.)

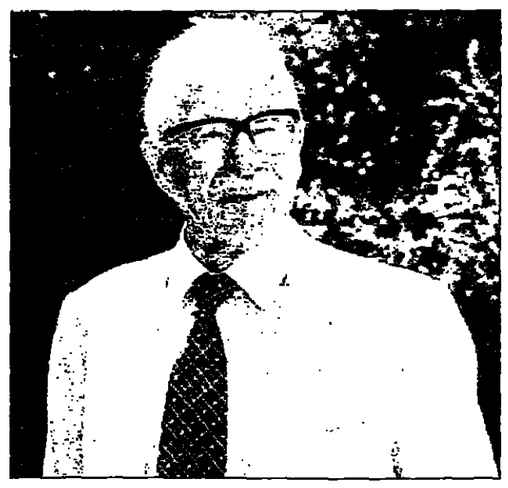
Burke believed that the carrier task group should be a central plank in US strategic thinking, and once the cloud over him had been dispelled he was able to put his ideas into effect. In 1955 he was appointed Chief of Naval Operations by President Eisenhower over the head of large numbers of competitors for the office, and held it until 1961. Those were the years which saw the development of the US Navy into an unmatched global striking force, with its large aircraft carriers, nuclear hunter-killer and Polaris submarines and a highly versatile amphibious arm. President Kennedy asked him to stay on for a fourth term, but he retired to take up a strategic studies post at Georgetown University.

In 1989 he had the satisfaction of having the first of a class of powerful guided missile destroyers named after him when *USS Arleigh Burke* was launched from the Bath Ironworks, in Maine.

He is survived by his wife Roberta ("Bobbie"). They had no children.

ERNEST WHITTEMORE

Ernest Whittemore, MM and Bar, Under-Secretary, Department of Health and Social Security, 1973-76, died on December 31 aged 79. He was born on August 31, 1916.



A ROBUST man of great energy and determination, Ernest Whittemore played a leading role during his Civil Service career in implementing some of the important decisions which were made about the state pension scheme and its relationship with other schemes, in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a man whose career demonstrated that success in the top ranks of the Civil Service is by no means the preserve of those with an Oxbridge education.

In 1934, straight from Raine's Foundation Grammar School in Stepney, he joined the civilian staff at New Scotland Yard as a clerical officer, and in the following year he was transferred as an executive officer to the pensions side of the Ministry of Health, where he remained until 1942. During this period, he was working for a degree in the evening department of King's College London. He graduated in English with first-class honours and for this performance was awarded the Brewer Prize by his College.

Having initially been rejected for military service on grounds of poor eyesight, he succeeded in joining the Royal Artillery in 1942 and gave valuable service in the North African and Italian campaigns, reaching the rank of sergeant. In 1944, after the Battle of Cassino, he was awarded the Military Medal, to which a Bar was added a year later, after the fall of the Gothic Line.

On his return to the Civil Service in 1945, he was assigned to the newly-formed Ministry of National Insurance and remained in that department and successor departments until his retirement as an Under-Secretary in 1976. Throughout his career, good use was made of his ability to carry through difficult and urgent administrative tasks with expedition and accuracy.

When a contracting-out facility was introduced into the state pension scheme in 1961 by Mr John (now Lord) Boyd-Carpenter, Whittemore was a leading member of the group of civil servants made responsible for the detailed planning and implementation of the new arrangements. This experience stood him in good stead in the 1970s when, as an Under-Secretary, he was again engaged in working on the integration of the state pension scheme with occupational schemes. This work involved extensive consultation with experts from the wider pensions world, by whom he soon became much respected.

As an Assistant Secretary, he had been seconded for a short period to the Children's Department of the Home Office, in anticipation of the transfer of its work to the Department of Health and Social Security. Here also he showed his remarkable drive and dependability by meeting almost impossible deadlines. Though a man of great sensitivity, he remained unflustered whatever the pressure.

He had a searching mind, and the intellectual energy he displayed in his work extended also to his leisure pursuits. As a soldier in North Africa he had devoted off-duty hours to learning Arabic, and his linguistic contacts with a university professor in Algiers attracted the attention of the military police lest he should have become entangled in some sort of espionage. While serving in the Italian campaign, he learnt Italian, and discovered Dante. He retained a love of Italy and of things Italian for the rest of his life — becoming, with his wife, a keen member of the British-Italian Society and of the Italian Institute. It was typical of him that, on his retirement from the Civil Service, when asked by his colleagues to choose a retirement present, he chose to have a large Garzanti dictionary and a fine Italian edition of Dante's works.

A committed Christian, he was an active member of the Church of England, with a strong leaning towards ecumenicalism. He also dedicated himself to the work of the United Nations Association. He was much involved in activities in the local community and was an energetic collector for the United Nations Association and other good causes. He made himself a highly competent bookbinder, and devoted a great deal of attention to his much-loved garden where he grew sweet peas and in consequence became a keen member of the National Sweet Pea Society.

He is survived by his wife Mollie, and two daughters.

MALISE NICOLSON

Malise Nicolson, MC, President of the General Council of British Shipping during the Falklands war, died from cancer on December 22 aged 74. He was born on October 31, 1921.

IT WAS unusual for someone from a small shipping company to become President of the General Council of British Shipping. Malise Nicolson had been chairman of the Booker Line for many years, and he used his term of office, 1982-83, which coincided with the Falklands War, to reorganise an overweight organisation. After the end of the conflict he tried to persuade the Government of the day to support British shipping in order to be able to mount a task force at sea again. This did not endear him to the powers that be, something which did not worry him.

Malise Allen Nicolson was born in Calcutta, the son of Sir Kenneth Nicolson and Mignon Shuttleworth, whose father Allen Thornton Shuttleworth had fought in the Indian Mutiny in 1857. He left Eton at the outbreak of the Second World War determined to join the Army. But being too young for the British Army, he went out to India and joined Probyn's Horse, arguably the finest cavalry regiment in the Indian Army. They were still horsed when he joined but were mechanised in the early 1940s and took part in the Burma campaign. Nicolson was a squadron leader at the age of 22 and saw fierce fighting in the dash to, and the capture of, Meiktila. In these operations he was awarded the Military Cross.

He transferred to The Royal Dragoons in 1946 and left the Army in 1947 with the rank of major. He then returned to India and worked for the shipping agents Gladstone Lyall in Calcutta. However, believing that there was no future in India, he returned to this country in 1955. He joined Booker Bros in Liverpool in 1956 and became chairman of



the Booker Line, the shipping arm of Booker McConnell, in 1968. In that year he also became a director of Booker McConnell, retiring from both appointments in 1983. He was a director of McConnell Salmon from 1973 and became its chairman in 1980, staying on until 1990. The company is now the largest salmon farming company in Britain, and owes much of its success to his foresight, perseverance and direction.

Recognised for his ability, he was appointed to various boards: he was a government-appointed director of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board 1974-80, and latterly a CBI-appointed director of the National Dock Labour Scheme 1986-90, for the reason that he wanted to see it abolished — which it was.

He had always been a keen horseman and a bruising rider across the Wynnstay country. He turned his attention to racing and breeding once he had the time. He was chairman of Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse from 1984 to 1994, and there is no doubt that its present position as a profitable and popular racecourse is entirely due to him.

The Racecourse Association soon realised his worth and made him one of its directors and the Midland area chairman, 1984-90. He was one of the few who visualised the potential of SIS (Satellite Information Services) which has been the lifeblood of many small racecourses over the last few years.

He was also a noted breeder of Section B Welsh ponies and of Gloucester cattle, one of the oldest rare breeds in the country. Malise Nicolson could not abide either pomposity or incompetence, nor did he look for preferment. He left his mark on the many facets of his life through his ability, integrity, energy and courage.

His courage was never more in evidence than during his last long illness.

He is survived by his wife Vivien, a son and two daughters.

RAMÓN VINAY

Ramón Vinay, South American tenor and baritone, died in Puebla, Mexico, on January 4 aged 83. He was born in Chillán, Chile, on August 31, 1912.

RAMÓN VINAY made his Covent Garden debut in September 1950 during a short season given there by La Scala, Milan. It was the Scala's first postwar visit to London and, under the command of Victor de Sabata, the company made sure it was a very glossy affair. The leading Italian singers of the day were on display: Caniglia, Carosio, Pagliavini, Gobbi, Silveri, Siepi. But for the title role of Verdi's *Otello* Milan turned to the Chilean tenor, Ramón Vinay. He had already opened the Scala's first season after the war in the same role and the company had every reason to stay with him.

De Sabata might have been the star of that September evening at the Opera House, but Vinay had a considerable success. So, too, did a little-known soprano, also making her London debut, called Renata Tebaldi. In the decade which followed the war Vinay was the world's leading Otello, dominating the role in the way that Domingo has done in his generation. For this some of the credit must go to Arturo Toscanini. The conductor seized on Vinay after he had taken over as Otello in 1946 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York at a few hours' notice from an ailing Torsten Ralf. Toscanini immediately signed him for one of the series of opera concerts he was to give with the NBC Symphony Orchestra in six months' time.

Tenor and maestro worked intensively together and the Vinay Otello was born: a ferocious study in wounded masculinity. Vinay looked like a Mediterranean warrior and matched this with the musical intelligence to show the vulnerability of Verdi's hero. He was a fine actor with an impressive physique and had an inbred ability to portray honesty on stage.

The Toscanini recording, which came out on the RCA label, has rarely been out of the catalogue. Later Jon Vickers was to give a very similar Otello and both men used the instantly recognisable timbre of their voices to impressive effect. Vinay was to sing Otello several hundred times before, in 1962, he turned baritone and took up the role of Iago instead.

Ramón Vinay was born of French and Italian parentage and spent his early years in Chile. He took no singing lessons there, but did study the violin. In 1922 the family moved to Dignes in France and Vinay was earmarked for a career in either engineering or the family business. His father sent him off to Mexico where, it was reckoned, the job prospects would be better for his multilingual son. This was an error of judgment and Vinay had to scratch what living he could. But he did frequent the local French Club and caught someone's ear by singing the *Marseillaise* on Bastille Day.

He started taking singing lessons and made his first stage appearance with a local amateur company as Alfonso,



Vinay as Otello

the King of Castile, in Donizetti's *La favorita*. He was firmly classed as a baritone and made his professional debut after winning a radio competition, also in Mexico City, as di Luna in *Il trovatore*. In his early thirties Vinay divided his time between opera and business, but it was becoming clear where his loyalties lay.

In 1943 he became co-manager of a small opera company and one evening when the Turiddu refused to go on in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Vinay, already an old trouper by the age of 31, took the role himself. The baritone became a tenor.

He was engaged by the Mexico City Opera for roles which included Otello and Don José before being whisked off to New York to the City Opera for a similar repertory. From there it was a short step to The Met. José was his debut part for both companies and marked the first of his series of portrayals of honest men who believe themselves spurned. Canio in *Pagliacci* was to follow shortly and Saint-Saëns's Samson not long after. Vinay became a great favourite at The Met, staying there for 15 seasons until 1961.

The robust, baritonal qualities of Vinay's voice inevitably led him into the Wagner repertoire. He was first engaged at Bayreuth in 1952 and continued to sing there until 1957. He returned to the festival in 1962 for Telramund in *Lohengrin*, so becoming one of the few artistes to sing both major tenor and baritone roles at the festival.

His other Wagner tenor heroes included Tannhäuser, Parsifal, Tristan and Siegmund. It was in that latter role he made his debut with the Royal Opera Company in October 1953: Radames, not one of Vinay's star interpretations, had been scheduled earlier but the opera was cancelled. Vinay's Siegmund was heard in Britain, both in London and when the company was on tour in the regions, throughout the 1950s, and it was the part in which he made his last appearance at the Garden in October 1959. In between there were two dozen Otellos and, in 1958, a brief glimpse of his Tristan.

Ramón Vinay made his Salzburg debut in 1951, inevitably as Otello, in a performance conducted by Wilhelm Furtwängler and with Paul Schöffler as Iago. He came back fifteen years later for a single appearance as Escamillo in *Carmen*, so completing, as at Bayreuth, his tenor-baritone double.

His readiness to take on the heaviest roles in the tenor repertoire, with little light relief, apart from Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* and occasional forays into Puccini with Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, led to wear on the voice. The top notes never came easily, especially when sung softly, although Vinay had an adroit way around the floated close of the Flower Song in *Carmen*. This was almost certainly why Vinay reverted to baritone after fifty. He concentrated on mainstream Italian opera with roles such as Scarpia, Rigoletto and Falstaff. He retired from singing in 1969 and for a couple of years administered the Santiago Opera.

He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Simon Starkey, chaplain at Chester College; to be Team Vicar, St Bride's Liverpool (Liverpool).

The Rev David Snuggs, Curate, Bitterne: to be Vicar Fair Oak (Winchester).

The Rev Elizabeth Thomas, Diocesan Children's Work Adviser and an Assistant Curate, Baildon (Bradford): to be Priest-in-charge, Denholme Clate, and continue as Diocesan Children's Work Adviser, the diocese.

The Rev Robert Ward, Team Vicar w charge of St James', Shaw Bradwell in the Ecumenical Parish of Stantonbury (Oxford): to be Vicar, St Martin, Knowle (Bristol).

The Rev David Brentnall, Vicar, Stevenage St Peter Shadwater: to be Vicar, St Albans St Peter (St Albans).

The Rev Donald Brockbank, Vicar, Altrincham St John and Diocesan Urban Officer (Chester): to be Ecumenical Officer and Associate Minister, Lichfield St Michael (w St Mary and St John Wall) (Lichfield).

The Rev John Downs, Curate (NSM), Barlestone: to be Curate (NSM), Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton, w permission to officiate at Markfield (Leicester).

The Rev Dr Gordon Edwards: to be Honorary Curate, St Paul, Chippenham w Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell and Kington St Michael (Bristol).

Retirement

The Rev Thomas Hindley, Rector, Christ Church, Harpurhey and St Stephen, Harpurhey (Manchester): to retire December 31.

Nature notes

HERONS are coming back to their bulky nests in the tree tops. The pair stand side by side on the nest, and the female tinkers with the rearrangement of a few twigs, but they will not seriously start repairing the nest for a week or two. Magpies are gathering in excited parties in the trees, chattering and then flying off in long lines: these are thought to be mainly young birds that are preparing to mate and take up territories.

One or two blackbirds have begun to sing softly at dusk on a mild day, but most of them will not be heard till February. Great tits are singing their two-note song — "teacher, teacher" — in woods and gardens, and coal tits singing their more rapid version of it among the conifers. Downy,



The heron

blueish-green leaves are opening on the honeysuckle: it twines itself round the boughs of young trees, and sometimes its stems wind round each other to form a stout cable. Under the trees, the autumn leaves lying on the ground have turned dark in the rain and are beginning to rot: earthworms drag them for food into their holes. DJM

A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

By H.V. Morton

A man with the high, bald forehead of a stage chemist stood in the Greenford Factory (where Lyons Chocolates come from) holding a small test tube to the light. There was something grim in his preoccupation. I have seen the same expression on the faces of doctors and scientists who believe that they are on the verge of isolating a new germ.

His spectacles glittered passionately, it seemed, as the fluid in the test tube changed colour. Swiftly he added another liquid, shook the tube, anxiously smelt it, examined it, and then, dipping into it a thin glass rod, tasted it. He put down the glass rod, put down the test tube, took up a pen and wrote in a book. Then, with a brief nod in which I seemed to read a kind of careless triumph, in dead silence he left the room . . . A new flavour had been born!

The home of Lyons' Chocolate lies in open country some three miles from Ealing. It stands in 30 acres of turf. The long red bungalow-like workrooms are a tribute to the Middlesex air. No film of smoke or grime defaces them. Broad avenues run between them. Green turf surrounds them, flower beds in the middle.

"This," said my guide, "is the Dipping Room." The dippers, with a speed and dexterity impossible to describe, took up the centres, dabbled them about in the brown flood of chocolate, and set them aside evenly covered, smooth, shining, perfect. I watched one girl with the hands of a pianist dipping a flat chocolate distinguished by a little spiral like a brown tail on the top of it. She quickly immersed it, dabbled it, brought it out, and then, with one rapid movement of a finger, decorated it with a tiny trickle of chocolate. It was finished! "It takes a year for a girl to become a good dipper," said my guide.

A file of girls came on duty. They had come straight from the manicure shop. He opened another door. In a small laboratory a number of solemn men were eating chocolates. I have never seen anyone eat chocolates with the same queer expression. You know how hens drink water with a kind of skyward reflectiveness?

"What are they doing?" "They are testing for variation in flavour. A subtle difference in taste not noticeable by the general public is nevertheless corrected. These men have wonderful palates and can track down the very faintest variation."

We tip-toed away. It was evidently a solemn occasion.

ON THIS DAY

January 8, 1925

No chocolates can have had a subtler promotion than to have half of a full page advert in the paper taken up with a description by an established writer of the factory in which they were made.

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

Major admits possibility of defeat

■ John Major publicly accepted the possibility of a general election defeat for the first time yesterday when he told Conservatives that they would lose unless they stopped their internal battles and pulled together.

■ Delivering his grimmest warning yet of the dangers of the disputes that have resurfaced since the defection of Emma Nicholson, the Prime Minister said it would be folly to hand power to a Labour Party that had opposed everything the Tories had done for 16 years..... **Pages 1, 2, 16**

School contracts for parents

■ Parents will all have formal contracts with their children's schools under plans outlined by John Major in an attempt to trump Labour's growing emphasis on civic duties. He promised a new raft of education reforms ..... **Pages 1, 17**

Death at the opera

Richard Versalle, 63, a tenor at *New York's Metropolitan Opera*, died on stage immediately after delivering the line: "Too bad you can only live so long". He was singing in an opera about eternal *life* ..... **Page 1**

Lottery wait

Two of the three winners of the record £42-million National Lottery jackpot had failed by *last* night to claim their share of the prize money ..... **Page 3**

Snowboard Prince

*The Prince of Wales tried snow*boarding, the youthful alternative to skiing, in the Swiss resort of Klosters..... **Page 3**

Mansion murder

The 58-year-old housekeeper for a wealthy elderly widow was found clubbed to death as her employer's mock-Regency mansion burned around her ..... **Page 3**

Ponies in distress

Animal welfare charities are rescuing distressed, abandoned, injured or starving Shetland ponies from owners who have answered *advertisements* saying: "Don't buy a lawnmower — buy a pony" ..... **Page 3**

Land's End sale

John O'Groats and Land's End, mainland Britain's most remote tourist extremities, go on sale together for a collective price of about £5.5 million. ..... **Page 3**

Charity inquiry

A charity hospital which is de*manding* £42,000 back *from its* former priest and chairman, is to examine a failed Spanish building project in which they invested..... **Page 5**

Gulf War memorial

A *memorial* to be placed in St Paul's Cathedral listing British Service personnel killed in the *Gulf War includes the name of a* sailor stabbed by another crew member after a drunken brawl ..... **Page 6**

Cyprus corruption

President Clerides of Cyprus has accused police of committing murders and being involved in gangland battles to control drugs, gambling and prostitution. Nearly a million Britons a year holiday *on the island*..... **Page 7**

EU alarm bells

Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, has outlined a fed*eralist programme for the Euro*pean Union which is likely to ring alarm bells in Britain..... **Page 7**

Orphans 'starved'

Claims that China systematically starves children to death in orphanages threaten to sour a visit by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, to Peking... **Pages 8, 17**

Free Willy

A 21-foot killer whale that starred in the film *Free Willy*, has begun a journey to freedom ..... **Page 9**

Epic voyage founders in marina

■ A builder who embarked on a round-the-world yacht voyage *with his extended family is back in Britain after the adventure* foundered in a Spanish marina, 30,000 miles short of target *and four years early*. Gordon Finch, who pledged not to return until he hoped the economy would be "sorted out", is back in his £250,000 home — which had failed to sell ..... **Page 3**



REUTERS

Russians in Kazan Cathedral, St Petersburg, light candles under icons yesterday to celebrate Orthodox Christmas. Pages 7, 17



Preview: Valeri Lavrinenko can *stop his pulse at will*, stay under water for longer than seems possible and survive 80,000-volt shocks to the base of his skull in *The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna* (ITV, 8.30pm).
Review: It is a little early for Peter York to be reminding us of the 1980s, says Lynne Truss.... **Page 39**

Parental duties

The more that parents understand their responsibilities for the moral, social and educational development of their children, the less these safety-net measures will be needed — and the more cohesive society will become ..... **Page 17**

Russia's midwinter

Russia's new year is still hard to read and it is far from the "normality" that reformers crave and the *world needs*..... **Page 17**

The way of all

Without the common mortal grind to set them against, dreams are a disappointment and *holidays* a contradiction ..... **Page 17**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

In January 1995, one began to feel that one knew where John Major stood; but in January 1996, one has to acknowledge that one does not..... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

If Labour came to office before the autumn — and perhaps even before next year — it would risk a repetition of the confusion and incoherence *which so undermined* Harold Wilson's Governments. Creating a new party takes time ..... **Page 16**

MATTHEW PARRIS

Just sprinkle the fattener on to your monosodium glutamate (with all the chow mein removed) and watch those rolls of fat grow!..... **Page 16**

Admiral Arleigh Burke, wartime American destroyer commander; **Ernest Whittemore**, former *Under-Secretary, Department of* Health and Social Security; **Ramon Vinay**, opera singer; **Malise Nicolson**, President of the General Council of British Shipping during the Falklands Conflict ..... **Page 19**

Wastefulness of charity appeals; what Hong Kong can teach Britain; hallmarks of a portrait painter; our cultural state ..... **Page 17**

BUSINESS

Decision day: The board of Grana*da meets today to decide the out*come of the cliff-hanging £3.2 billion battle for Forte, the hotelier to caterer. A decision on whether to raise the stakes must be announced by tomorrow, under City takeover rules ..... **Page 40**

Turbulence: Airbus Industrie is offering to knock up to 40 per cent off *the price of its $140 million* A330 twin-jets, in a bid to prevent Boeing from carrying off one of its most valued customers ..... **Page 40**

Festive spree: Credit card spending soared in the run-up to Christmas, according to a survey. Next, Argos, Boots, Sears and House of Fraser are among retailers due to disclose their Christmas trading figures this week..... **Page 40**

Starting today: A four-part series *looking at ageing, offers advice on* how to stay looking and feeling younger..... **Pages 12 and 13**

Perfectly cut: Wearing the Agnès b. label carries a discreet signal. Kate Muir meets the charming rebel ..... **Page 15**

Fresh treatment: Nigel Hawkes on how a flock of sheep is helping to target anti-cancer drugs .... **Page 14**

Flower power: The snowdrop has a punch that will be used to protect crops against aphids ..... **Page 14**

Friendly welcome: The first man-made signals that aliens will hear *come from ballistic missile* radars ..... **Page 14**

Arts crisis: When Virginia Bott*omley visits the Victoria and Albert* Museum, she will hear that the institution has serious financial headaches as a result of cuts to its annual grant ..... **Page 10**

Hot ticket: Benedict Nightingale on the London premiere of *Saltimbanco*, a spellbinding new show from Canada's circus troupe, *Cirque du Soleil* ..... **Page 11**

Medieval treasure: Even listeners reasonably *familiar with medieval* music would have been startled by the feast served up by the New London Consort at the Purcell Room..... **Page 11**

2, 3, 4, 13, 42, 44. Bonus: 24

Football: Les Ferdinand scored in injury time to snatch a 1-1 draw for Premiership leaders Newcastle, in their FA Cup-tie against Chelsea. Everton, the Cup holders, were held to a 2-2 draw by Stockport County..... **Pages 23, 24, 25**

Rugby Union: England called up *Jon Sleighthome and Steve Ojo*moh, both of Bath, for the opening match of the five nations' championship against France. Damian Hopley and Tim Rodber are dropped ..... **Page 22**

Cricket: England suffered another defeat when they went down by three wickets to a Western Pro*vince team that* was without several key players..... **Page 27**

Rugby union: Toulouse, the French champions, became the inaugural winners of the European Cup when they beat Cardiff in an exciting final that went to extra-time..... **Page 22**

Rugby league: Wigan beat Leeds 38-18 to reach the final of the Regal Trophy for the fourth successive time. They will meet St Helens, who defeated Warrington last week..... **Page 30**

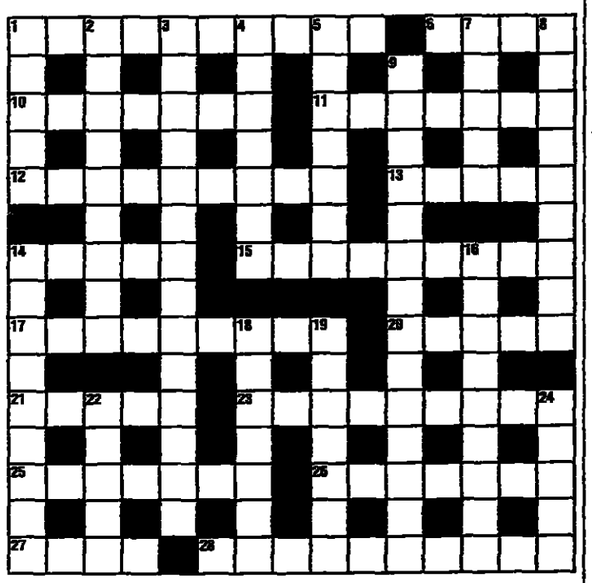
Anyone who seriously believed that all the promises made by the Bosnian factions when they reached a peace agreement in Dayton would be put into effect smoothly now knows otherwise.
— The New York Times

IN THE TIMES

■ **NEW SERIES**
Our Friends in the North, **Peter Flannery's television saga of sleaze and corruption**

■ **BODY AND MIND**
Dr Simon Wessely on good news for sufferers of chronic fatigue syndrome

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,058



ACROSS

1 Girl takes in Conservative member about business partner (10).
6 Old coin and ring left by former pupil (4).
10 *Instrument of torture concealed in* mountain ferns (7).
11 By popular demand? That's not entirely accurate (7).
12 Lacking ambition, like a nine-to-five worker, perhaps (9).
13 Layabout escapes from quarrel, disappearing in the opposite direction (5).
14 *It sounds like river bait (5).*
15 Lad in cosy accommodation belonging to the council (9).
17 Gourmet transformed an initially unappetizing recipe (9).
20 Dangerous atmosphere in borders of Hungary (5).
21 Like a layer of wood that's grey (5).
23 Just competent, but open to correction (9).
25 Trendy fashion editor gave monotonous performance (7).
26 Extravagant rise given to worker (7).
27 Support removing head, say (4).
28 Representative of a thousand fish a fisherman put back (10).

DOWN

1 Pulpits where bishop goes into holy book (5).
2 Hubbub after union troubled a rich pair of Eastern states (9).
3 Manufacture article, managing to set the pace (4,3,7).
4 They cut in, in the dance (7).
5 Blush about supporting illegal acts out East (7).
7 Black Labrador initially eating uncooked scrap (5).
8 Confederate following Yankee measure, word for word (9).
9 Backing a newspaper is old-fashioned (6,3,5).
14 Believer accepts blame for health worker (9).
16 Dock management providing support for writers (9).
18 Macmillan accepted this mad role, foolishly (7).
19 River spirit raised in African country (7).
22 Call demanding attention, on phone in inn (5).
24 Go in for chips without fish at first (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,057 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouces,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffd & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, *24 hours a day, dial 0336 40*; followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Herts	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Lodsworth, West Sussex, 0.79in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, 4.9hr

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WEATHER

☐ **General:** England and Wales will start cloudy and windy. Outbreaks of *rain over western and central parts will* extend east during the day. Blustery showers and bright intervals will push *in from the west. These will reach all* but easternmost counties by evening.

Rain and strong winds already over Northern Ireland will sweep across much of Scotland during the morning, extending to all parts in the afternoon.

Brighter conditions with squally showers will edge into Northern Ireland later and spread to western parts of Scotland in afternoon.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia:** cloudy; *rain spreading* from west during afternoon. Wind south fresh to strong. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, N W England, Lake District, Central N England:** cloudy *with rain outbreaks; clearer by even*ing. Wind south to southeast fresh to strong. Max 9C-11C (48C-52F).

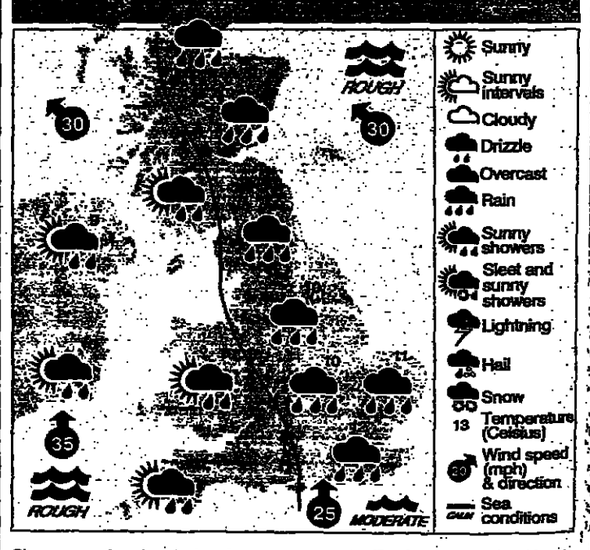
☐ **E England, N E England:** cloudy; *outbreaks of rain spreading from west* during morning. Wind south to southeast fresh to strong. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain; becoming brighter and more showery in afternoon. Wind south strong. Max 10C-12C (50F-54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rain spreading in; mostly dying out later. Wind southeast strong. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N W Scotland:** cloudy; outbreaks of rain in morning, brighter and more showery later. Wind southeast strong. Max 8C-10C (46C-50F).

☐ **Outlook:** *bright in west with windy* showers, more cloudy in east.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low K will edge eastwards with little change in pressure; complex low M will push northeastwards and start to fill



24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.45	7	45	r
Anglesey	0.1	0.15	10	50	r
Aspatria	-	0.17	9	48	r
Aviemore	0.2	0.03	7	45	r
Belfast	-	0.33	9	48	c
Birmingham	-	0.34	9	48	sh
Blagnor R	0.5	0.76	11	52	sh
Bournem'th	X				
Bristol	1.1	0.32	12	54	sh
Buxton	-	0.47	8	46	r
Cardiff	1.2	0.23	11	52	sh
Clacton	X				
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.17	10	50	r
Cromer	-	0.03	11	52	c
Doncaster	X				
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	1.7	0.50	11	52	b
Edinburgh	1.2	0.06	9	48	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.43	7	45	r
Exmouth	2.8	0.07	12	54	b
Falmouth	4.0	0.34	13	55	b
Fishguard	1.9	0.33	10	50	r
Folkestone	2.8	0.54	11	52	b
Glasgow	-	0.17	10	50	r
Guernsey	2.3	-	X	X	b
Hastings	2.6	0.37	11	52	b
Hayling I	0.3	0.76	10	50	sh
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	0.6	0.41	10	50	c
Hunstanton	1.6	0.03	11	52	b
Ilfracombe	-	X	11	52	du
Isle of Man	-	0.28	10	50	r
Jersey	2.0	-	11	52	b
Kinloss	-	-	8	46	c
Leeds	0.5	0.39	10	50	b
Lerwick	-	0.11	4	39	h
Leuchars	-	0.23	8	46	r
Littlehmptn	0.5	0.79	12	54	r
Liverpool	-	0.24	10	50	c
London	1.2	0.22	11	52	b
Lowestoft	1.5	0.02	10	50	b
Manchester	0.3	0.04	10	50	r
Margate	1.8	0.17	11	52	r
Minehead	1.0	0.35	12	54	r
Morecambe		0.23	10	50	r
Newcastle	-	0.15	9	48	r
Newquay	3.9	0.24	12	54	b
Norwich	2.0	0.05	11	52	b
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	0.3	0.24	10	50	r
Penzance	3.4	0.29	13	55	r
Plymouth	3.6	0.50	12	54	s
Poole	0.9	0.19	12	54	sh
Prestatyn	X	0.09	10	50	b
Ross-o-wye	-	0.54	11	52	r
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	2.2	0.48	11	52	sh
Saunton Snd	2.4	0.28	11	52	b
Scarboro'	X				
Shanklin		0.28	11	52	b
Shrewsbury	0.2	0.17	10	50	r
Skegness	X				
Southend	1.3	0.36	10	50	b
Southport	0.9	0.15	10	50	r
Southsea	-	0.47	11	52	c
Stornoway	-	0.16	9	48	r
Swanage	1.6	0.10	12	54	b
Teignmouth	3.2	0.15	13	55	s
Tenby	X				
Tiree	-	0.03	10	50	r
Torquay	2.8	0.24	13	55	s
Tynemouth	-	0.20	9	48	r
Ventnor	0.5	0.26	11	52	r
Weymouth	1.0	0.24	11	52	sh

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available

ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	c	C'phagn	0	32	c	Majorca	18	64	s	Rome	13	55	r
Alicante	15	59	f	Dublin	9	48	r	Malaga	19	66	s	S P'loco	12	54	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	r	Malta	18	64	s	S Paulo	24	75	d
Algiers	17	63	c	Faro	18	64	s	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Salzburg	1	34	s
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Florence	9	48	r	Mexico C	18	64	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	10	50	c	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Miami	24	75	r	Seoul	5	41	r
B Aires	28	82	s	Funchal	20	68	r	Milan	3	37	r	Sing'por	29	84	t
Bahrain	21	70	r	Geneva	7	45	r	Montreal	-19	-2	-	St'kholm	0	32	sn
Bangkok	31	88	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Moscow	-8	16	sn	Strasb'rg	1	34	f
Barbados	29	84	s	Helsinki	-3	27	c	Munich	4	39	c	Sydney	21	70	c
Barcelona	17	63	f	Hong K	24	75	f	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tangier	19	66	s
Beirut	15	59	f	Innsbruck	4	39	f	N York	-8	18	s	Tel Aviv	12	54	r
Belgrade	2	36	r	Istanbul	5	41	f	Nairobi	27	81	r	Tenerife	24	75	s
Berlin	-1	30	s	Jeddah	26	79	s	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	11	52	s
Bermuda	17	63	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Nice	10	50	c	Toronto	-11	12	sn
Biarritz	14	57	f	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	0	32	sn	Tunis	20	68	f
Borde'x	11	52	r	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	11	52	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	2	36	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Cairo	18	64	s	Le Touet	11	52	s	Perth	36	97	s	Venice	7	45	d
Cape Tn	24	75	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	-3	27	c	Vienna	-3	27	sn
Ch'church	18	64	c	Locarno	5	41	d	Reykjavik	0	43	f	Warsaw	-8	21	c
Chicago	-9	21	c	Luxembg	5	41	c	Rhodes	12	54	s	Wash'ton	-3	27	f
Cologne	5	41	c	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wellington	19	66	r
Corfu	15	59	f	Madrid	11	52	s	Riyadh	19	66	f	Zurich	3	37	r

TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:58	6.71	3:22	6.78	Leith	3:52	6.23	4:07	5.32
Aberdeen	2:44	4.11	2:55	4.25	Liverpool	0:24	8.93	0:37	9.01
Avonmouth	8:31	12.69	8:51	12.47	Lowestoft	11:02	2.32	11:20	2.52
Belfast	0:11	3.17	0:25	3.66	Margate	1:03	4.80	1:25	4.44
Cardiff	8:19	11.72	8:37	11.32	Milford Haven	7:23	5.64	7:51	6.41
Devonport	7:02	5.35	7:25	5.09	Newquay	6:25	6.54	6:42	6.35
Dover	0:13	6.54	0:25	6.37	Oban	6:58	3.97	7:24	3.88
Dublin	0:45	3.80	1:05	4.05	Penzance	6:01	5.38	6:17	5.19
Falmouth	6:27	5.03	6:42	4.85	Portland	7:51	2.04	8:16	1.88
Glasgow	2:11	4.30	11:44	3.25	Portsmouth	0:29	4.55	0:36	4.39
Harwich	0:58	3.84	1:18	3.81	Shoreham	0:23	5.37	0:38	5.17
Holyhead	11:43	5.42	--	--	Southampton	--	--	0:08	4.40
Hull	7:38	6.99	7:46	7.34	Swansea	7:44	9.06	8:05	8.74
Ilfracombe	7:16	6.85	7:37	8.71	Tees	5:02	4.90	5:11	3.96
King's Lynn	7:36	8.17	7:48	8.29	Wilton-on-Nze	0:45	4.01	1:07	3.99

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Sun rises: 8.05 am
Sun sets: 4.10pm
Moon sets 8.58 am
Moon rises 7.19 pm

London 4.10 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.20 pm to 8.14 am
Edinburgh 3.58 pm to 8.40 am
Manchester 4.08 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 4.38 pm to 8.19 am

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